GMA starts 5-day swing through South Korea, Japan

Story on PAGE A3

For once, VP agrees with foreign policy

Medyo okey yan!

By Norman Bordadora

VICE President Teofisto Guingona Jr. yesterday praised the Department of Foreign Affairs for the government's decision to apply for permanent observer status in the influential Organization of

FOR ONCE/ A19

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Amnesty Int'l cites killings of Bayan Muna members** ACROSS/A13
- **North Korea, Iran urged to scrap nuke programs** WORLD/A11
- **Anti-drug drive expanded** METRO/A23

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Monday, June 2, 2003 ★★ 80 pages / 8 sections / vol. 18 / no. 174 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Palace: No truce with MILF

AFP pushes punitive actions vs 'terrorists'

By Dona Pazzibugan, Martin Marfil and Norman Bordadora

THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front's 10-day ceasefire begins today, but it will not stop the government from continuing so-called punitive military actions against certain units of the Moro separatist group.

"The punitive actions will go on," Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia said. "It is targeted, not against the MILF but against the group that perpetrated these terrorist actions, and it will continue."

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye reiterated the President's stance on the truce offer of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"Their so-called ceasefire is just a tactical ruse. It's only meant to mislead us," he said in Filipino.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will meet with her senior advisers in Malacañang at 9 a.m. today to discuss the government's next move, Bunye added, before she leaves for state visits to South Korea and Japan.

He said the rebel attack in South Upi, Maguindanao on Saturday, proved the MILF's lack of sincerity.

Fresh rebel attacks have caused even a staunch supporter of the peace process, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, to air his worries about MILF behavior.

"While we do hope that the announced truce will take place, we view with concern the latest reported attack by suspected MILF troops on two Army detachments in North Cotabato yesterday that left 11 people dead," Guingona said.

The MILF attack on militiamen in South Upi left at least 19 people dead, including 12 of their own, according to the military.

"(This) is yet another tragedy that runs counter to the need for confidence-building measures that will show the sincerity of the MILF in wanting to reopen peace talks with the government," Guingona said.

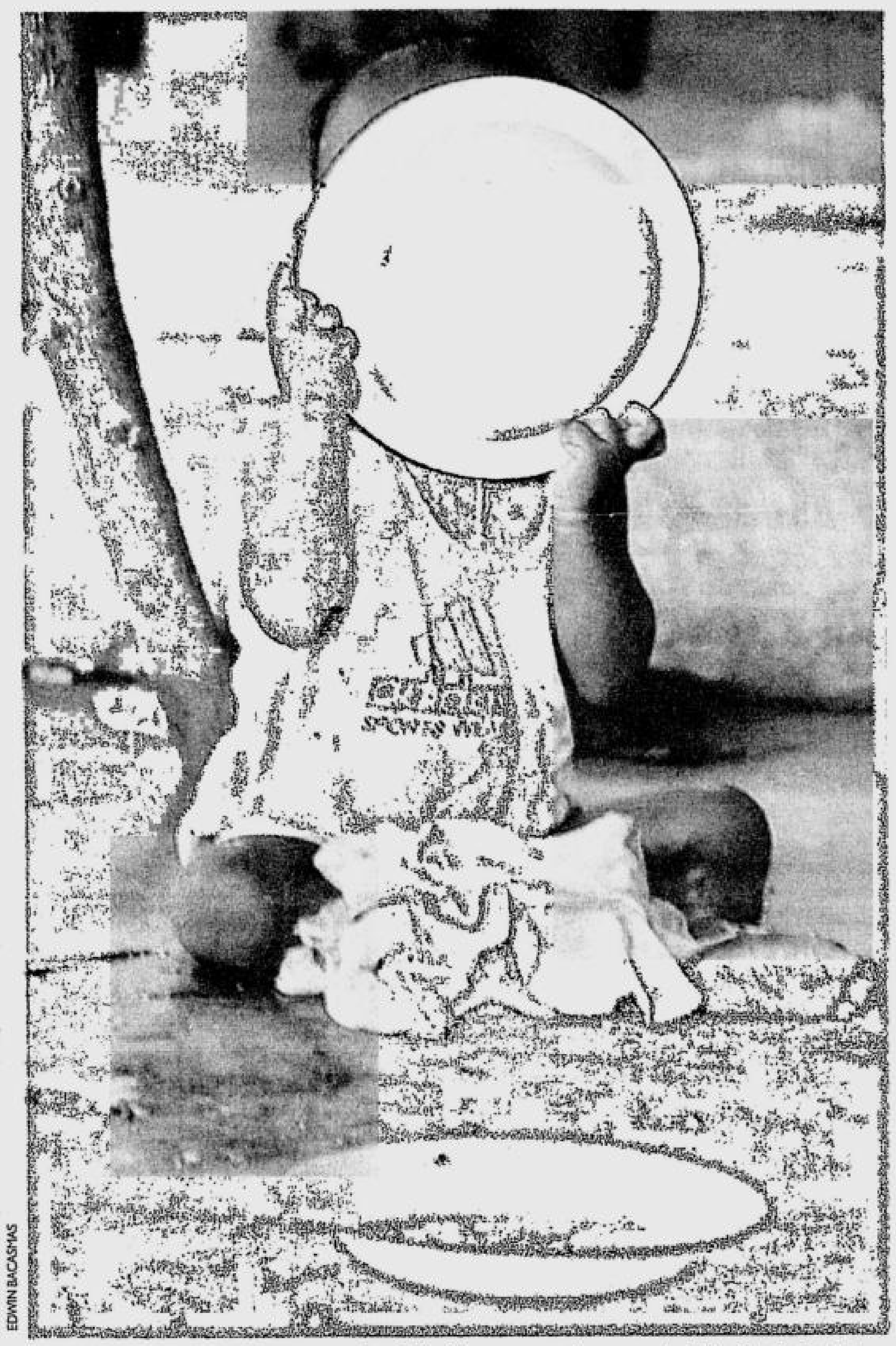
"We hope the MILF will respond in more tangible terms to the offer of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for a permanent ceasefire," Guingona said.

But the MILF said their guns would be silent in the next 10 days.

"We assure the Mindanao people that the MILF will never initiate any tactical offensive during the duration of a 10-day unilateral ceasefire," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said in a phone interview yesterday.

The ceasefire started midnight, the same hour the government

PALACE/ A18


EDWIN BACASMAS

FACELESS young victim of war gets a plateful inside an evacuation center in Pikit, North Cotabato.

Filipinos with AIDS sew stories in quilts

By Blanche S. Rivera

"KAREN: Live to Love. 1996"

The quilt was made for Karen, who died of AIDS in 1996, but who in her death chose to believe in the beauty of a life lived in love.

It was a classic quilt, one among almost a hundred that represented the Filipinos who had died of AIDS in the Philippines since 1984, that was unfurled during the lotus ceremony in Marikina City last month as part of the country's remembrance of all those who died of AIDS and renewal of its commitment to support those who are living with the disease.

It also marked the holding of the AIDS Memorial Quilts, an international tradition that came to the country in 1996 as an alternative therapy to help people infected with HIV, the precursor to full-blown AIDS, deal with their situation.

The quilts have become the best AIDS education tool for Filipino communities around the world. Many of them, like the one made for Sarah Jane Salazar, are traveling internationally all year round as part of the AIDS awareness campaign by Names Project International.

"Using quilts is not inherent in our culture, so we have to be used to it as an education tool," Nenet Ortega, co-chair of the Names Project Philippines. "So for every panel that people see, they know that one Filipino has died of AIDS. It means that the bigger the quilt, the worse the epidemic," she said.

There have been 250 deaths

FILIPINOS/ A18

Evacuees now savor chicken

By Charlie C. Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—After being swamped with relief supplies of sardines, dried fish and ready-to-eat food, the 40,000 evacuees of Pikit in North Cotabato can now enjoy servings of chicken.

Pikit Mayor Farida Malingco said she had already directed the Municipal Disaster Operation Center (MDOC) to change the evacuees' food rations "to something better and nutritious" as she encouraged backyard gardening in the evacuation areas.

The MDOC and other relief agencies in the government and private sectors have been providing food rations twice a week to the families who were displaced by fighting between government troops and Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels.

At least 62 people have died in the evacuation centers since the clashes began in February when government soldiers stormed the MILF

EVACUEES/ A18

US traders gripe about slow pace of reforms

FOREIGN investors in the Philippines are becoming increasingly restless over the slow pace of reforms urgently needed to improve the country's difficult business climate and check eroding competitiveness, according to the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (Amcham).

The business chamber said investors were concerned about infrastructure bottlenecks, bureaucratic corruption and tax avoidance, antiquated labor legislation, the slow pace of formulating laws and their insufficient implementation, and security problems.

They are also equally worried over the Roman Catholic country's out-of-control population growth, large budget deficit, lack of consistency and transparency in investment policies, and decline in English proficiency, the premier competitive advantage of Filipino workers.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, more than two years in power, has been seeking to introduce reforms to increase economic growth and attract investments, but they may not be rapid enough to maintain Philippine competitiveness in a globalized economy, foreign business leaders say.

To reverse the trend of slowing foreign investment, the Philippines needs to "restore the confidence of the foreign investment community, not with soothing words but with forceful actions," the American chamber said in an investment policy advocacy paper seen by the French news agency Agence France Presse.

The report, circulated to all the top leaders of the Macapagal administration and heads of the

US TRADERS/ A19

Subic port expansion under way

SUBIC FREEPORT—When the last US naval ship sailed out of Subic Bay in the Philippines in 1992, so did the GI Joe-dollars that had fueled the economy of surrounding towns for nearly half a century.

Thousands of people, who had traditionally relied on the Subic naval base, found themselves jobless, while nightclubs that provided bawdy entertainment to American troops fell silent when the Philippine Senate ended the facility's lease contract.

"It was devastating and confusing. Nobody thought the US government would allow its base to close. There were no immediate offers for people like me, and my kids were going to college then," recalls Nick Leonzon, who had worked for the Americans as a public works executive at the base.

While there were talks on how to develop the abandoned Subic base, no one at the time had a concrete plan on how to transform the 67,000-hectare facility into a money-making venture.

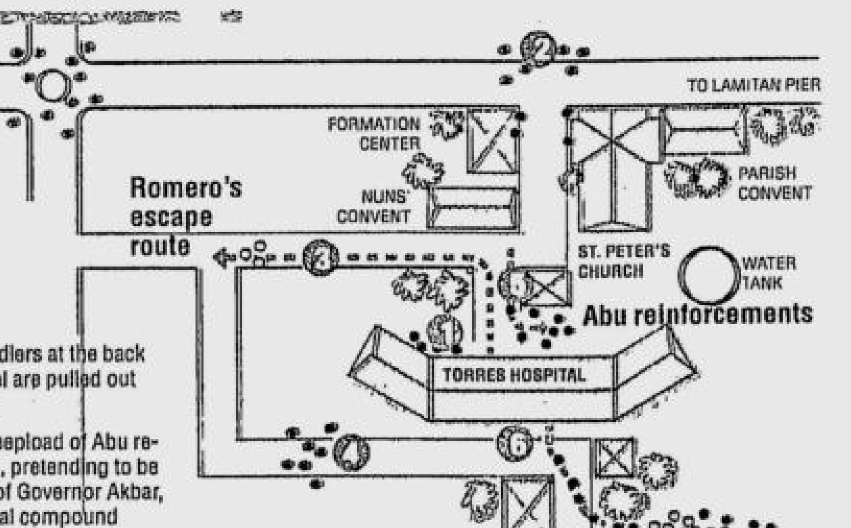
Then President Fidel V. Ramos, however, declared the shuttered base a freeport where passing goods would enjoy lower tariffs and

SUBIC/ A18

Lamitan 'hospital of horror' still haunts AFP

COLLUSION OR CRIMINAL INCOMPETENCE?

The "escape" of the Abu Sayyaf from the siege of Lamitan was one of the worst military failures in history. It started a series of events that claimed the lives of more than 40 soldiers and hostages, including two Americans.



❶ **11 p.m., June 1, 2001.** ASG arrives in Lamitan with 17 Dos Palmas hostages; takes over Torres hospital and nearby St. Peter's church

❷ **Dawn, June 2.** Scout Rangers under Captain Guinolbay, uninformed about the Abu presence, walk into ambush; two Rangers dead, eight wounded

❸ **Before noon.** Reghis and two other hostages are released; exit through hospital front

❹ **4 p.m.** Soldiers at the back of the hospital are pulled out for a briefing

❺ **5 p.m.** A jeepload of Abu reinforcements, pretending to be bodyguards of Governor Akbar, enters hospital compound through main courtyard

❻ **6:30 p.m.** Bandits exit hospital with 11 Dos Palmas hostages and four new ones, including Ediborah

❼ **1 a.m., June 3.** AFP launches prolonged assault on hospital compound; Gracia and company watch the tracer fire from the mountain

SOURCES: Senate Committee Report No. 72; Gracia Burnham's "In the Presence of My Enemies"; Jose Torres Jr.'s "Into the Mountain"; various news reports; diagram based on sketch by Torres

INQGRAPHIC: ERNIE SAMBO

By John Nery

(First of two parts)

EDITOR'S Note. To honor the memory of more than 40 soldiers who died pursuing the Abu Sayyaf bandits who held Gracia Burnham and other victims hostage, the INQUIRER reviews the June 2, 2001 siege of Lamitan—the turning point in the Dos Palmas kidnapping saga that, instead of saving the lives of soldiers and hostages, led to their needless death.

SPECIAL REPORT

THE NEWEST "major non-Nato ally" of the United States suffers from a festering wound—the still-unresolved siege of Lamitan. Two years ago today, at least 130 government troops surrounding the hospital compound in the Basilan town inexplicably allowed the highest ranking leaders of the Abu Sayyaf to escape—with 11 of their Dos Palmas victims and four new hostages.

The debacle led to charges of collusion or criminal incompetence. To date, however, no military officer has been haled before a court-martial.

Last month's publication of Gracia Burnham's ac-

LAMITAN/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western section of Northern Luzon will experience rains and gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of northern and western section of Luzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/02/03

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Metro Manila	Monsoon Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Monsoon Rains
Baguio	Monsoon Rains	Roxas	Monsoon Rains
Tuguegarao	Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Monsoon Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Cost of surviving sea tragedy: ₱1,000

THE OWNERS of the MV San Nicolas, which figured in the Manila Bay collision with the Super Ferry 12 last week, has pledged to financially assist the victims of the sea tragedy that has so far claimed 31 lives.

The San Nicolas Shipping Co. will give P1,000 to each survivor, and P15,000 toward the funeral expenses of each fatality from the MV San Nicolas, according to Ronnie Farranco, the ship's radio operator.

Aside from the cash, the company will also provide free passage to the survivors who may wish to return to Palawan, Farranco said in a phone interview.

"Survivors have been coming to our office asking us to help them go back to Palawan," he said.

He said two of the shipping company's vessels that were stranded in Palawan due to bad weather would be dispatched to pick up the survivors.

Farranco said the Catalyn-A will be arriving in Manila today to transport the victims back to Palawan for free.

The Asuncion II will follow later in the week.

Two more bodies, believed to be passengers of the San Nicolas, were recovered over the weekend, the Philippine Coast Guard said yesterday.

Fishermen on board the fishing boat Patricia found the body of Lester de la Cruz Datu Jr. of Culion, Palawan, floating in the waters between Rosario, Cavite and Bataan at about 3:50 p.m. on Saturday.

Datu was wearing a red T-shirt, denim pants and his wedding ring. His wallet and cell phone were found in his pants pockets.

Police brought the body to Eusebio Funeral Services to be autopsied.

Fishermen on board another sea vessel recovered the second body off South of Caballo island early yesterday.

The unidentified male body, in a green T-shirt and shorts, was in an advanced state of decomposition.

It was described as being between 20 to 25 years old and approximately 5'4" tall.

George de Jesus of the Coast Guard public information office said retrieval operations would continue.

"We are also relying on the reports and assistance of private sea vessels to help us find the bodies," De Jesus said.

Meanwhile, fishermen from the coastal town of Paombong in Bulacan found the body of a 1-year-old baby girl believed to be among the passengers of the San Nicolas.

Reports said the unidentified body was wearing a life jacket. *Margaux Ortiz with a report from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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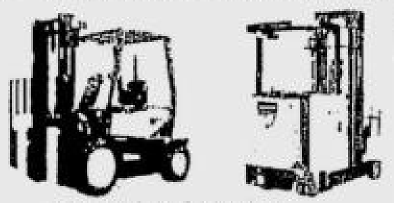

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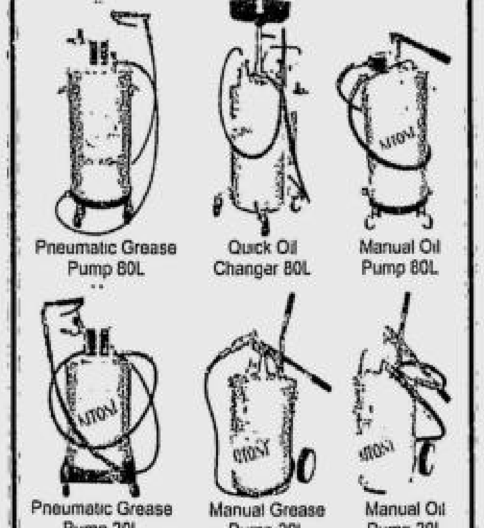

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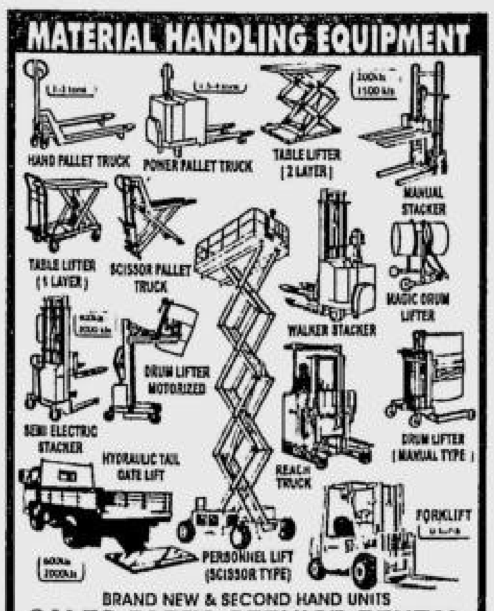

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GMA flies to Seoul today

RIDING on the crest of a wave of public goodwill following a triumphant state visit to the United States and a resurgent economy at home, President Macapagal-Arroyo embarks on a five-day investment-hunting swing through East Asia's two leading economies—South Korea and Japan—that could boost her political stock as the country girds for presidential elections only a year away.

The President has repeatedly said she will not run in the May 2004 polls but Malacañang insiders rate the chances of her changing her mind at "50-50" after her US state visit.

During the trip, she was hailed by US President George W. Bush as a staunch ally in his antiterror campaign and won pledges of more military aid.

Antonio Gatmaitan, head of the Political Economic Applied Research Foundation think tank, said the trips to Seoul (June 2 to 4) and Tokyo (June 4 to 6) could boost Ms Macapagal's political confidence if they result in economic benefits for the country.

"People are skeptical about the values of her trips but as soon as she delivers she will get political mileage," Gatmaitan said.

On top of the usual discussions on economic cooperation and the plight of overseas Filipino workers, the President said her visits would give her the opportunity to discuss with East Asian leaders the primary regional security issue of North Korea, particularly the nuclear weapons program of the reclusive Stalinist state.

"I would certainly want to work with them for us to come together (to work out) a common policy approach to the North Korean issue," Ms Macapagal said in an interview with Japanese journalists ahead of her Seoul and Tokyo visits.

Ms Macapagal will be the first foreign leader to be received as a state visitor by South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun since the latter assumed office last February.

The President will witness the signing of three agreements involving legal coordination, energy and finance on Tuesday after meeting with Roh, a Malacañang statement said.

Later, she will witness the signing of two business agreements, including one with Korean companies covering the electrification of Panay island, the statement said. No further details on the agreements were given.

The President will also be meeting with leaders of the Korean National Assembly and South Korean business groups, as well as with the Filipino community in South Korea.

From South Korea, Ms Macapagal will fly to Japan where she will make a three-day working visit.

In Tokyo, the President will hold talks with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and top executives of Japanese business conglomerates.

She will also be one of three regional leaders invited to address a conference on the future of Asia. The two other speakers are Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and Thailand Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

This will be the President's fourth visit to Japan since she assumed office in 2001.

Reuters, AFP and Carlito Pablo

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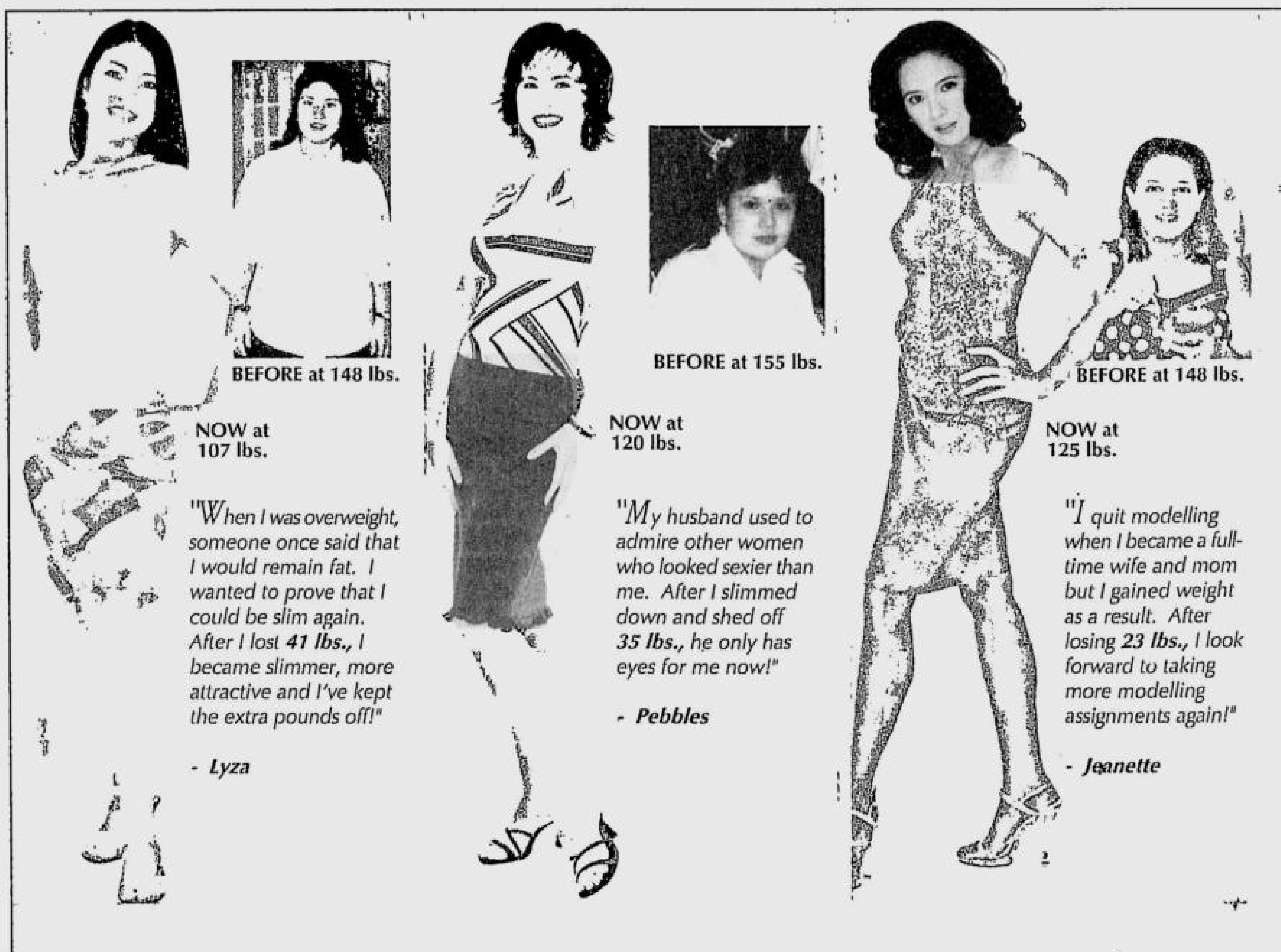

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Pinay from Taiwan is new suspected SARS case

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A 30-year-old Filipina was confined early yesterday at the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center here after she showed symptoms of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), two weeks after she returned from Taiwan.

The patient, identified only by her initials EK, is from Hilongos town, 146 kilometers from Tacloban, said Ligaya Anacta Acosta, regional information officer of the Department of Health of Eastern Visayas (DOH-8).

"We're praying that she will turn out not to be a SARS case," Acosta said.

If tests prove conclusive, EK would be the East Visayas' first SARS case and the country's latest, two weeks after the World Health Organization removed the Philippines from the list of SARS-infected countries on May 19.

Dr. Nicholas Bautista, the regional chief epidemiologist, picked up EK from her residence in a DOH ambulance and brought her to the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center, designated by the DOH as the SARS center for the region, at around 4 a.m. yesterday.

Also confined in separate rooms at the hospital's isolation ward are EK's sister and niece, whose ages were not immediately available.

Acosta stressed EK's relatives were confined for observation only as they were the immediate and close contacts of EK.

"Both have yet to show any symptoms of the disease," she said.

Acosta said regional health officials were conducting "contact-tracing" of the people that EK had come into contact with upon her arrival from Taiwan.

EK is reportedly married to a Taiwanese and returned to the Philippines on May 17. It could not be ascertained when she returned to her Leyte hometown. Her husband is said to be in Taiwan.

Acosta could not say how EK contacted the pneumonia-like disease, but Taiwan has one of the highest numbers of SARS cases among nations.

Apec to tackle SARS

KHON KAEN, Thailand—Trade ministers of the Asia-Pacific countries will meet this week to sign off on an emergency plan to revive the region's tourism industry and other businesses that have been hard hit by the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Ministers from the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum will also discuss ways to pay for increased security in shipping and air travel because of terrorism fears.

Economic growth rates across Asia have dropped because of the disease—Hong Kong by 1.8 percent, Singapore by 1.1, Taiwan by 0.9 and China by 0.2—according to the Asian Development Bank.

Fear of SARS has even affected countries that have not had major outbreaks. In Thailand, for example, tourism arrivals have dropped by 40 percent and some businesses are warning they face bankruptcy.

Ministers will endorse the "Apec Action Plan on SARS," said C. Lawrence Greenwood, the United States ambassador to Apec.

"We want to make sure we get the travel, the tourism going as soon as possible," he said. The plan focuses on "how to make sure health screening is effective but promotes the movement of people."

"It's also an outreach to business, to make sure companies have travel policies that are consistent with that," Greenwood said. *AP*

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (OBLIGATIONS AND CONTRACTS)—Imposition of Interest—In Eastern Shipping Lines, Inc. vs. CA, 234 SCRA 78 (1994), we laid down the following guidelines in the imposition of interest: x x x 2. When an obligation, not constituting a loan or forbearance of money, is breached, an interest on the amount of damages awarded may be imposed at the discretion of the court at the rate of 6% per annum. No interest, however, shall be adjudged on unliquidated claims or damages except when or until the demand can be established with reasonable certainty. Accordingly, where the demand is established with reasonable certainty, the interest shall begin to run from the time the claim is made judicially or extrajudicially (Art. 1169, Civil Code) but when such certainty cannot be so reasonably established at the time the demand is made, the interest shall begin to run only from the date the judgment of the court is made (at which time the quantification of damages may be deemed to have been reasonably ascertained). The actual base for the computation of legal interest shall, in any case, be on the amount finally adjudged. 3. When the judgment of the court awarding a sum of money becomes final and executory, the rate of legal interest, whether the case falls under paragraph 1 or paragraph 2, above, shall be 12% per annum from such finality until its satisfaction, this interim period being deemed to be by then an equivalent to a forbearance of credit. Since this case does not involve any obligation arising from loan or forbearance of money, then the interest should be imposed as follows: On the first billing for P450,604.96—6% per annum computed from the date of demand on Feb. 23, 1996 while an interest of 12% per annum shall be imposed on such amount from the finality of this decision until the payment thereof. On the second billing for P62,451.05—6% per annum computed from the date of demand on Sep. 10, 1996 while an interest of 12% per annum shall be imposed on such amount from the finality of this decision until the payment thereof. On the P108,610.52 for services rendered from April 10, 1996 to July 31, 1996—6% per annum computed from the date of decision of CIAC on Feb. 20, 1998 while an interest of 12% per annum shall be imposed on such amount from the finality of this decision until the payment thereof. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas v. Santamaria, G.R. No. 139885. Jan. 13, 2003]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 2, 2003
7th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 19:1-8
Gospel: Jn 16:29-33

The disciples said to Jesus, "Now you are speaking plainly and not in veiled language! Now we see that you know all things, even before we question you. Because of this we believe that you came from God."

Jesus answered them, "You say that you believe! The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.

"I have told you all this, so that in me you may have peace. You will have trouble in the world; but, courage! I have overcome the world."

Commentary

The disciples declared in one voice their awareness of Jesus' omniscience and from that confessed that he came from God. We can almost hear the pride in their choral announcement, "Now we realize and so we believe!" After all, they had gone through so much instruction from Jesus to come to this point in their journey of faith. But we hear a challenge in Jesus' response, "Do you believe now?" He rocked their self-assurance to lead them to fuller belief. Like a tidal wave, the hour of final testing was rushing upon them. The death of Jesus would imperil their own lives. They would scamper every which way to save themselves, leaving Jesus alone. Would they be able to realize that the hour of total abandonment is also the hour of glory?

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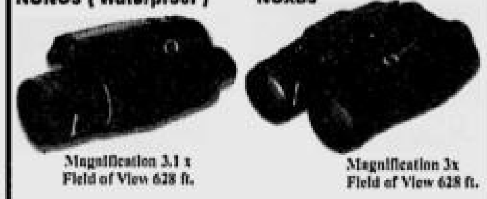

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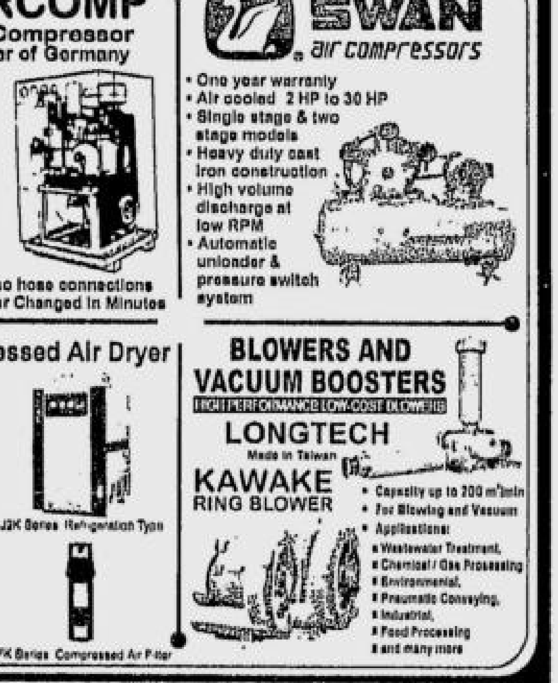

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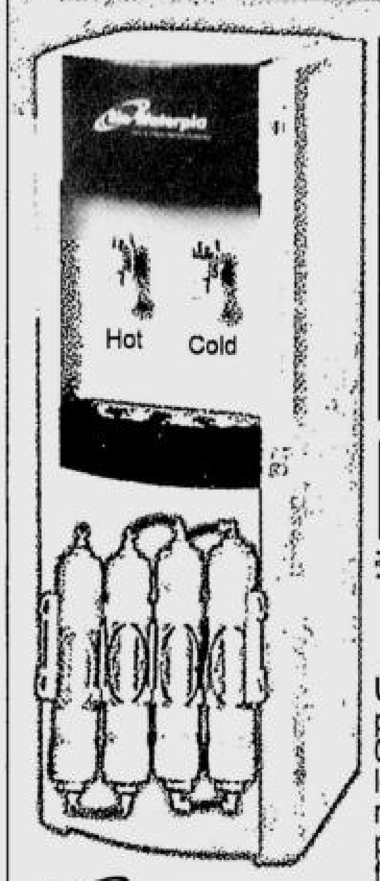

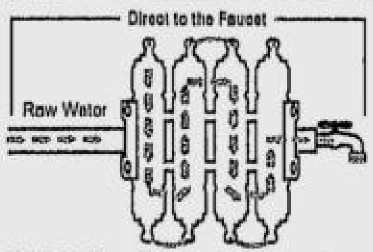

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20M Filipinos have no access to clean water, says Gozun

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Elisea Gozun said here yesterday that close to 20 million Filipinos, or roughly one-fourth of the population, have no access to clean water and sanitation.

Gozun said that as of 1996, river classification in the country showed that only 51 percent met cleanliness standards.

She said this meant that all the other rivers were polluted and that only 76 percent of the population had access to clean water and sanitation. The population of the Philippines is estimated at 80 million.

"It is therefore urgent for all Filipinos now to take action and do something to protect the environment," Gozun said.

The secretary was here yesterday as guest of honor and speaker at the World Environment Day celebration, the first held outside Metro Manila.

Gozun said that at a meeting of world leaders during the World Water Forum last March, she saw how the Philippines could not talk of providing sustainable clean water to its people, "if we will not start with taking care of our water resources, which are the watersheds."

She said that of the 4.5-million hectares of forest lands in the country, less than one million hectares remained virgin.

Our mangrove forests, she said, have also been depleted by more than 50 percent in just the last 14 years.

"We are now down to the last 100,000 hectares of mangrove forest," Gozun said.

The World Environment Day celebration had been set for June 5, but the city government decided to move it forward because of pressing schedules.

Gozun thanked Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn for the city government's approach toward waste management.

"I'm glad that Puerto Princesa City is continuing with its ecological solid waste management (program) which is one of the priority programs of the DENR," she said.

After the program at Mendoza Park, local residents trooped to the different coastal barangays to clean up the shore, while others went to Barangay Irawan for a tree-planting.

On June 5, nongovernment organizations and environmental groups here will gather for a round-table discussion on water issues as part of the celebration.

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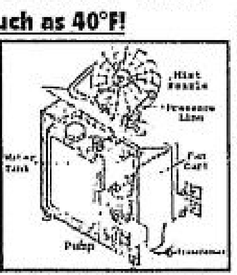
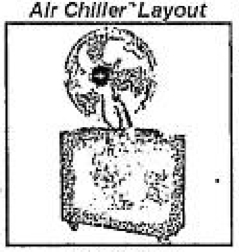
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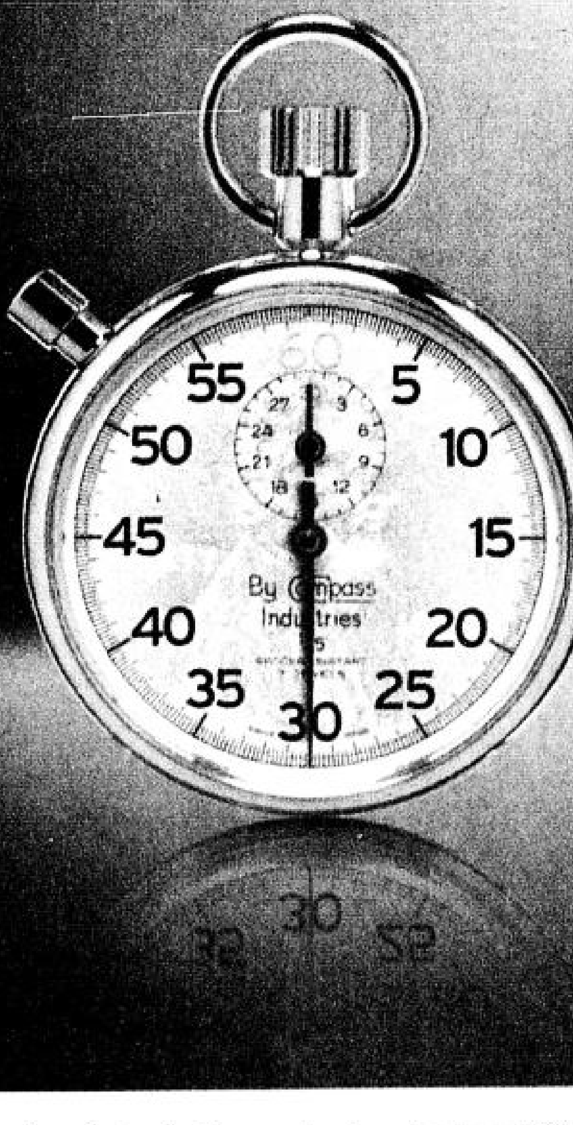

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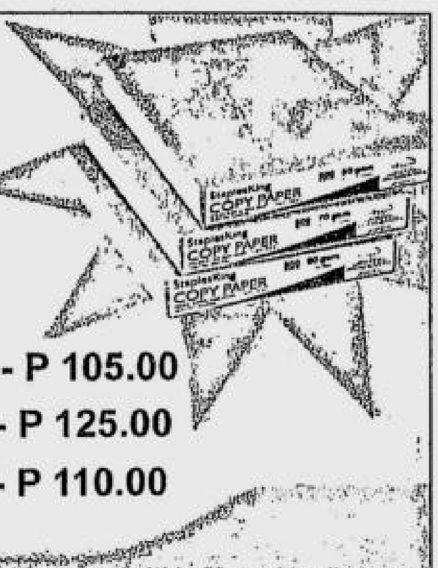

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Solons to take up Cha-cha options

By Christine O. Avendaño

THREE proposals on how to amend the Constitution will be presented to the 14-member Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revision on codes and laws when it finally meets tonight to start deliberating the Charter change (Cha-cha) initiative.

Committee chair Sen. Edgardo Angara said yesterday the panel members would be presented with three options to amend the 1987 Constitution.

These are: to convene Congress into a constituent assembly; create a constitutional convention; or to let the people themselves decide in a national referendum which of the two options they favor.

Angara said the national referendum option was discussed during the committee's just concluded public hearings on the charter change proposal.

"We will present these options and they (senators) will think about it," Angara said in a phone interview.

The meeting tonight, he said, is not expected to see members taking a vote on the three options because they would be given time to consider this since Congress is set to adjourn this week.

The senator said his committee would submit its report on which path to follow in amending the Constitution after its members had made their decision.

Angara said the Senate still had time to decide on the mode of amending the Constitution since the deadline was Aug. 15, based on the calendar provided by the Commission on Elections.

"So it fits our calendar," he said.

Aside from Angara, the regular members of the committee are Senators Joker Arroyo, Robert Barbers, Rodolfo Biazon, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Tessie Aquino-Oreta, John Osmeña, Francis Pangilinan, Ramon Revilla and Manuel Villar. The three ex-officio members are Senate pro tempore Juan Flavier, majority leader Loren Legarda and minority leader Vicente Sotto III.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., said Angara had told him last week about the third option, which is for holding a national referendum to let the people decide on the mode.

In a statement, Pimentel said the third option could break the impasse in Congress over the mode of amending the Charter.

Angara and Barbers filed the Senate resolution calling for Congress to convene itself into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution. The House has approved a similar resolution.

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'Dodong' re-enters country

TROPICAL depression "Dodong" yesterday intensified into a storm while over the South China Sea and has re-entered the country, posing a threat to Northern Luzon, the weather bureau said yesterday.

As of 2 p.m. yesterday, Dodong was estimated to be 330 km west southwest of Laoag City with maximum sustained winds of 65 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 80 kph. It is forecast to move east northeast at 11 kph towards the extreme northern end of Luzon.

An earlier bulletin of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) had placed Dodong as drifting outside the Philippines at 2 a.m. yesterday.

But forecasters said Dodong intensified into a storm in the past 12 hours, threatening Zambales, Pangasinan, La Union, the Ilocos provinces and the Babuyan group which have all been placed under Storm Signal No. 1.

Dodong was forecast to be 100 km northwest of Laoag City this afternoon, and 230 km north northeast of Laoag City or 60 km south of Basco, Batanes tomorrow afternoon. It will continue to drift away and will be 250 km east northeast of Basco, Batanes on Wednesday afternoon.

Pagasa said the southwest monsoon will continue to affect the western sections of Luzon and the Visayas, bringing rains and gusty winds.

The rest of Northern Luzon will experience monsoon rains while other parts of Luzon will have cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms.

The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms.

Gil Cabacungan

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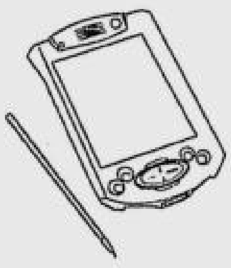

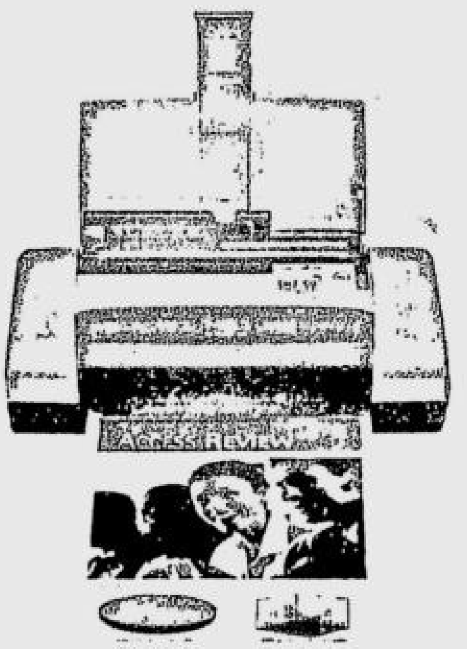

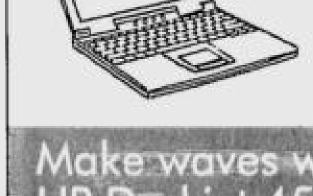

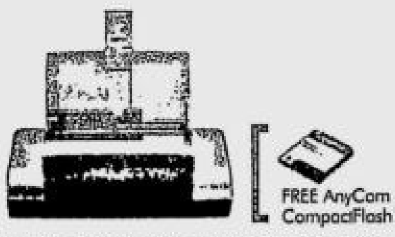

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Brownouts may hit Cebu as early as June 15

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Metro Cebu could experience brownouts beginning June 15 when an independent power producer (IPP) that supplies electricity to the Visayan Electric Co. (Veco) closes shop due to financial difficulties.

This after Energy Secretary Vincent S. Perez said on Friday that the Visayas region faced a crippling energy crisis beginning December because its power grid might not be able to supply all its electricity needs.

Augusto Villa-Real, Cebu Private Power Corp. executive vice president and chief operating officer, had written Veco about CPPC's decision to temporarily suspend operations.

Factors cited by Villa-Real for the decision were President Macapagal-Arroyo's order reducing the purchased power adjustment (PPA) paid to electricity producers from P1.07 to 40 centavos; the depreciation of the peso against the dollar; and the increase in fuel prices.

Roger Lim, CPPC general manager, said the company could not sustain its operations because they were selling power at very low cost to Veco despite high production costs.

Since the National Power Corp. reduced its power purchase cost (PPC), Lim said, CPPC rates dropped by at least 60 centavos.

The financial difficulties of the company deepened when the peso depreciated against the dollar last October, Lim said.

CPPC, a joint venture of East Asia Utilities and Veco, supplies 62 megawatts of reserve power to Veco daily.

Napocor supplies 50 percent of Veco's power needs. The rest is divided among three IPPS—CPPC, Toledo Power Corp. and East Asia Utilities Corp.

Ethel Natera, Veco spokesperson, said in a statement that Veco needs 91 MW of reserve power for the Cebu-Negros-Panay (CNP) grid.

"Granting that CPPC will stop supplying its contracted daily power of 62 MW to Veco effective June 15, the CNP grid reserve power will go down to only 20 MW. This is a very critical power situation, which will have a great effect on electricity consumers," she said.

Natera said that as a last resort, Veco would have to implement rotation brownouts in Metro Cebu, which is composed of four cities and four towns.

In Iloilo City, Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez yesterday urged the government to fast-track projects to head off the looming power crisis in the Visayas.

"We are pushing for the completion of immediate measures, as well as long-term solutions, to address the problem," she told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The governor was reacting to Perez's assertion that Panay Island, comprising the provinces of Iloilo, Capiz, Antique and Aklan, is expected to be severely hit by the power crisis.

Perez had told the joint congressional power commission meeting Friday at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City that the crisis could be addressed by a bill that is pending in the House, which aims to "promote wind, ocean, solar and biogas" energy as alternative sources of electricity."

Rey Jaleco, area manager of the National Transmission Corp., said Panay had a power deficit because a generating plant in Dingle, Iloilo and two power barges could not meet the energy requirements of the island.

Current power demand in Panay reaches 105.22 MW, higher than its power-generating capacity of 47.8 MW. *With Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

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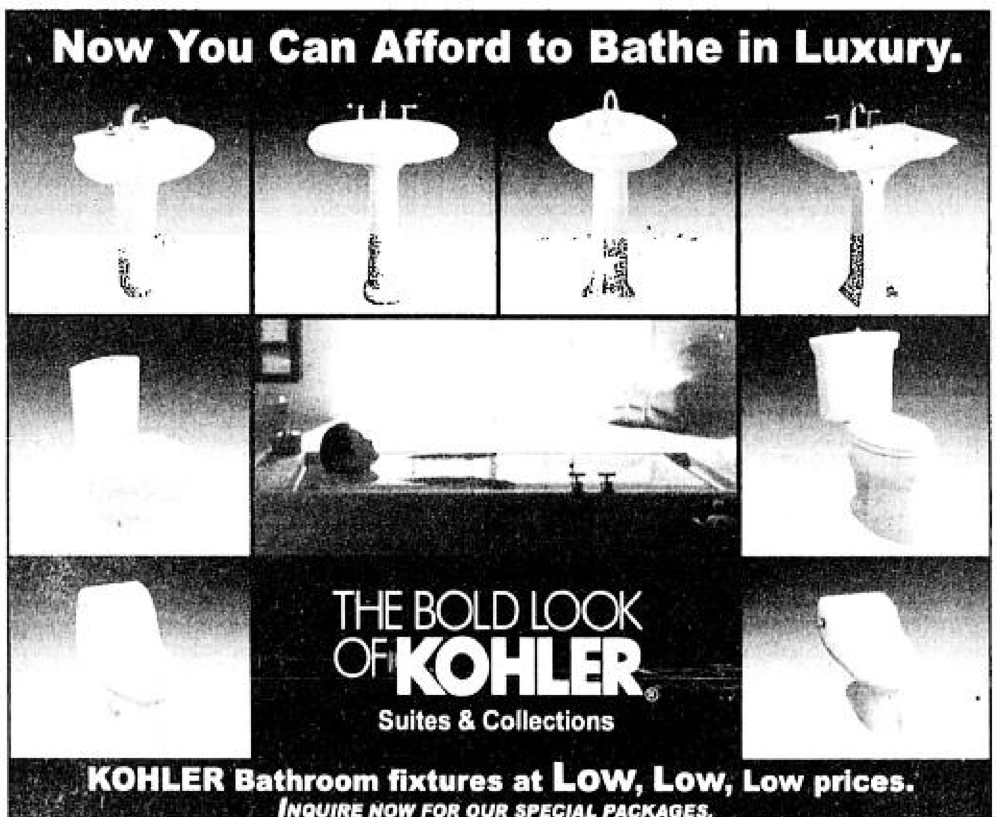

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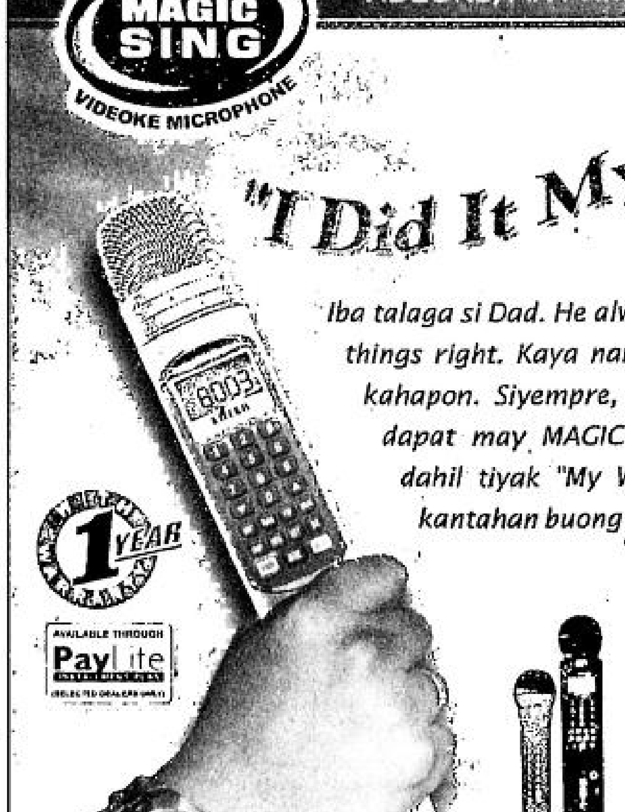
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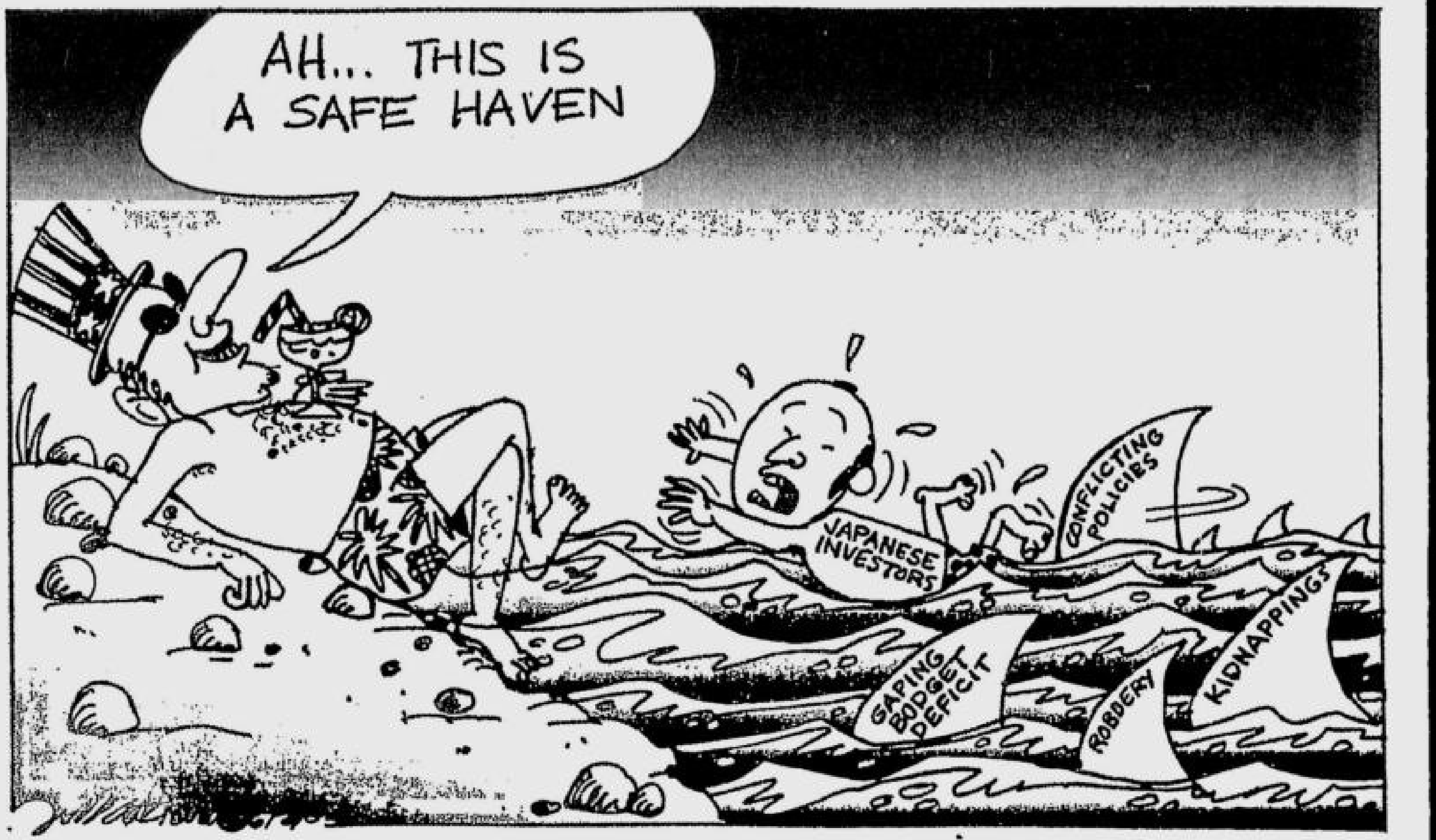

Collateral damage?

Editorial

MALACAÑANG seems to be under the impression that, in military operations, the forced evacuation of civilians in areas of conflict is acceptable risk. Acceptable, that is, as long as the total number is kept artificially low.

After Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said in a privilege speech last month that the number of civilians displaced by the "selective" attacks on the MILF had reached 318,000, Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao blustered: "It's very sad. Senator Pimentel is totally misinformed." Tiglao said the senator from Mindanao may have mistakenly referred to the total number of refugees who had gone "in and out" of evacuation centers in parts of Mindanao since the Buliok offensive in February.

Then the whopper: Tiglao said that in the week since the "selective" attacks started (on the day the President left for her state visit to the United States), the government had listed only 3,500 civilian evacuees. The number, he said, even included those who got relief supplies from the Department of Social Welfare and Development, but returned to their homes immediately.

As anyone with a sense of proportion can readily judge, however, the figure of 3,500 couldn't have been true. It wasn't true at the time Pimentel stood on the floor of the Senate, and it wasn't true at the time Tiglao issued his reply, which was about a week after. That a former journalist like Tiglao could have thought so is yet more proof that the revolving door linking politics and journalism is fraught with risk—for the journalist.

The "punitive action" to root out what President Macapagal-Arroyo described as "embedded terrorist cells" was executed on several fronts: in Lanao del Norte, on the Zamboanga peninsula, in the Buliok complex, and near the former Moro Islamic Liberation Front main camp in Maguindanao. Scope alone, therefore, was a giveaway.

Any journalist with enough on-the-ground experience would have expected a much higher number of displaced civilians, if not actual civilian deaths.

Of course, expectation is one thing, reality is another.

Reality as recorded by the same branch of government Tiglao works for, however, is unequivocal: The number of new internal refugees is much higher than he says it is.

When Vice President Teofisto Guingona visited Munai, Lanao del Norte last week, he was told the evacuation centers in the former MILF stronghold housed at least 7,300 civilians. Munai, it bears to keep in mind, is just one town, in one province.

At about the time Tiglao spoke, the official evacuee count of the DSWD in Northern Mindanao stood at 3,243 families, or a total of 18,891 displaced civilians.

About two days after the latest offensive started, Lanao del Sur's representative in Congress raised the alarm over the sudden influx of refugees from its neighboring province. The estimate, at that time, was 30,000 evacuees.

And late last week, in an attempt to lead both the government and the MILF back to the peace table, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines pointed to the plight of some 200,000 refugees—all of whom would be granted "safe return and rehabilitation" by the MILF, the bishops said. (Perhaps naively, or perhaps with more insight into the human condition than either politicians or journalists possess, the bishops accept the MILF's word at face value. But the rebels, who have launched several attacks since they publicized their offer of a unilateral ceasefire, are clearly speaking with a forked tongue.)

Why would Tiglao offer the INQUIRER, in a phone interview, the obviously untenable figure of 3,500? Either he did not know the truth (he had not been updated), or he thought he could be economical with it.

Apparently, in the global war on terror, collateral damage to the truth is now acceptable risk.

The same dilemma

Foreign Comment

WHAT'S worrying Washington is the information that al-Qaida members in Iran took part in the recent bombing attacks in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, as well as suspicions that Teheran is developing nuclear weapons.

Because of this, the world may be confronted with the same dilemma as it was during the war in Iraq. There is a broad unity in the world that no country should be able to shelter terrorists and that the nonproliferation treaty should be respected. The disunity is about the method.

And if the American conclusion will be that something similar will work in Iran, then the world order as we know it is in a bad fix.

Dagens Nyheter, Stockholm (Sweden)

Another budding scam in the GSIS

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

WHAT do you think of a contract which makes a government bank fork over to a small private company—incorporated only in January 2001 with a paid-up capital of only P62,600—P150 million a year in fees collected by the bank, leaving nothing for itself. Grossly disadvantageous to the bank, *'di ba*? So what should be done to the people who sign this contract and to the boss who forces his subordinates to sign it? Prosecute them for graft. And what should the President do to prevent this irregularity? Stop the boss from forcing the signing of the contract or else she too would be liable for graft.

Graft charges are in store for a lot of people if Winston Garcia, president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) succeeds in forcing officials of a GSIS subsidiary, the GSIS Family Bank (GFB), to sign a service contract with FCA Card Solution Network Inc. (FCA).

The excuse for the budding scam is the proposed GSIS eCard project of EDIS (Electronic Disbursement and Information System). It envisions the issuance of "smart" ID cards to the 1.5 million GSIS members through which the GSIS, it is hoped, may efficiently and economically extend its loans and other benefits to its qualified members.

The GFB was brought into the picture because it has a computer system licensing agreement with Infoserve. This licensing agreement is to be assigned to the small private company, FCA, so that the GSIS can avoid the bidding process and award the contract for the project to FCA through GFB, allegedly to "upgrade the system." However, EDIS is not an upgrade of the system that GFB has but a different system altogether. It should, therefore, be bidded out.

Moreover, the contract would transfer to FCA the monopoly over all of GSIS' disbursement it is giving to GFB in exchange for the paltry P20 million worth of computer software and hardware. The contract falsely says that FCA would provide the eCards "at no cost to the GSIS." A big lie.

A service fee of one percent is collected from the members for the loans. This is paid to the GSIS at present. Under the contract, this fee will be collected by GFB and turned over to the FCA. At P100 service fee for every P10,000 loan for each of the 1.5 million members, FCA stands to earn at least from P100 million to P150 million a year for five years (the term of the contract). Thus, FCA stands to earn from P500 million to P750 million in five years in exchange for its P20-million computer software. The GFB which collects the fees gets nothing (but still retains all the liabilities). And the GSIS (which means the GSIS members) which is now getting these fees, will lose from P500 million to P750 million in five years. That's just for starters. The housing, salary and policy loans are bigger. The FCA will also share in the income from the P500 million float to be deposited with Equitable PCI Bank. *'Di ba* grossly disadvantageous to the government *'yan*?

The scam has been cleverly conceived. You won't see any involvement of Garcia or the GSIS in the Service Agreement among the GSIS, GFB and Equitable PCI Bank. That contract is clean.

But there are two contracts. In the second service contract, GFB, as the service provider which has an existing license agreement with Infoserve, assigns the license to FCA. The GFB then courses its service to FCA, including all the service fees it collects.

It is like the contracts for the construction of the infamous President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard (PDMB). The loan contract between the GSIS and Public Estate Authority (PEA) is clean. It is the contract between the PEA and its contractor that is dirty and raised the cost of the boulevard to a record-breaking high.

In fact, the GFB-FCA contract was packaged by the same people who packaged the PDMB contracts. Yes, two of the people whom President Macapagal-Arroyo fired from the PEA for the PDMB scam are now members of the board of GFB.

The president of GFB, Benigno Zialcita III, and its chair, Ambassador Sanchez Ali, as well as a third member of the five-member executive committee, Carmelo Royeca, did not want to sign the contract because it was anomalous and would open them to charges of graft. Only two members, the two from the PEA, were in favor. The majority wanted the defects corrected. Instead of responding favorably to this act of good governance, Garcia reportedly tried to pressure the three opposing Excom members to change their minds.

In a letter to Malacañang (a photocopy of which I got from the Office of the Executive Secretary) Zialcita reported that Garcia summoned him to his office and asked for his resignation as he "seemed more loyal to the GFB board than to the GSIS." Zialcita refused to resign as he saw no reason to do so.

In a conference he called among the GSIS, GFB and FCA representatives, Garcia (according to Zialcita's letter) exclaimed:

"I will close the bank if it does not cooperate with the GSIS. We are exercising the right of the GSIS as owners of the bank. We have the right to use the bank the way we want.

"I will change them (referring to the GFB board members). They are just accommodations from Malacañang. I was the one who designated them."

Last April 24, Garcia did succeed in ousting the three GFB board members opposed to the transaction. At the GFB stockholders' meeting, Zialcita and Royeca were not reelected by the bank's principal stockholder, the GSIS. Chairman Ali said he would resign "in one or two weeks."

Porn

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

A MONTH or so ago, I wrote about a friend of mine, Billy Esposo, receiving e-mails purportedly from me. Those e-mails turned out to have had a bigger audience, other people having received them as well. One of those people was me. I have not always followed my e-mail religiously, but on one occasion that I checked it several weeks ago, I was vastly amused to find that I had sent letters to myself.

There were about five of them, mostly right-wing articles on Iraq ripped off from somewhere. They carried notes from me, written clumsily, telling people to read them. They carried as well my e-mail address—that one at least was more accurately represented—which is, dequiros@info.com.ph.

Well, I've always wondered what it would be like to have a clone. Would the other person think and feel the same way I do? But the answer to that may have to wait longer. Unfortunately, this one is not a real clone, genetically or literarily.

After that business last year about someone impersonating me at the DFA, an elderly gentleman getting ahead of the line (or was it availing himself of a special window for journalists?) by giving my name and identifying himself as the columnist from the INQUIRER, I've gotten vicarious sensations of having a split personality. Or since I already have a split personality being a Gemini, taking on added personalities. With this recent assault on my singularity, I'm beginning to feel like Michael Keaton in "Multiplicity." Though I seem to be getting only the disadvantages and none of the advantages of being several persons.

There's a recent twist to this. I learned this from a call from the INQUIRER recently. Apparently, some people have alerted my office to the fact that they have been receiving porn materials from me. At least, they carry my e-mail address. I do not know what they consist of, I have not seen them. But what can I say? At least they are an improvement over the right-wing articles on Iraq that are being dumped on them. I wouldn't mind sending those to myself. All I get is the trash on Iraq.

I can only hope my clone, or clones, do not find it in their heads to write love letters to women. Or decode my cellular phone to send the same to them, using my number. Addressees are forewarned to distrust the source. Unless of course they decide to take up whatever indecent proposals are put to them. (Life is strange, as you realize as you grow older, and the strangest thing of all is that some people actually respond to the caveman approach. Crudeness attracts them.) In which case, they may feel free to get in touch, pun intended. Multiplicity may have its advantages after all.

The rest may be safely advised to ignore or discard the messages purportedly coming from me. The simple fact is that I do not write e-mail messages. I've apologized to readers for this before, particularly those who beg for, or demand, a reply. It's all I can do, as I've said, to just read my e-mail. I value my time. As it is, I'm getting dumb from not having enough time to read poetry. Seamus Heaney is the last one I've read. I can only, by way of consolation, urge the victims of this hoax to repair to him forthwith. I can assure them he is an even vaster improvement over the articles on Iraq, and even the porn materials.

Of course the same victims of the hoax can always check with me if I really sent them those materials by sending me "back" the stuff. I am not one to take my duties lightly and vow to scrutinize them one by one to determine if I was really their source.

But seriously, it's weird, why people would go to these lengths to try to make other people sound disreputable. I can only thank them of course for acknowledging implicitly that my column is getting as much to the minds of readers as on their nerves. What do they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery? If so, impersonation, open or perfidious, is second.

I should think though that most of my readers know well enough that the taste of the pudding is in the eating. Or in this case, the taste of the eating is in the pudding. The eating don't taste good, it ain't the same pudding. Which make the efforts at subterfuge useless. I can imagine that those efforts take time and energy, which can be used more productively to try to convince someone to stop campaigning resolutely, or desperately, because she isn't going to win next year anyway. That is the horrendous thing, the utter waste of precious time. Well, maybe the people who are doing this are still young and have all the time in the world, though I doubt it, if what I hear from my own grapevine is true. But that's still wasting youth if youth they are.

That's the true porn.

* * *

My thanks to the Rotary for the Best Opinion Column award. I would have gone to the awards of course, except that I learned the good news only the day before. I had obligations by then. Some friends had resolved to descend on my house to console me with the thought that though heaven might still be weeping at the anniversary of my birth two days later, they weren't. What can I say? I value my friends, there are so few of them. Column-writing depletes them.

The trophy is very nice, but the check is even nicer, coming it does just before the opening of school year. I still have a kid to bring the light of education to, however much he seems to protest the idea. Talk of grace, or timely blessing.

What can I say? At least some people are convinced I am not a pornographer, or a spreader of lustful jpegs. Or were the judges among their beneficiaries?

Hmmm.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

ME road map brings optimism

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

OVER 100 members of the ruling party's national directorate meet tonight at the Makati residence of party co-chair and Speaker Jose de Venecia, but without co-chair President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is flying to Seoul, South Korea, today for a visit. Tonight's meeting is expected to discuss, among other things, the proposed amendments to the Constitution, and a party stand is expected to be made endorsing them.

Another issue expected to crop up is the proposal of some party members to persuade GMA to run in 2004, despite the statement of Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye that she's sticking to her Dec. 30 decision not to run. The pressure for her to run has mounted following her successful US state visit, where senior American officials were also said to have expressed the same sentiment. Leading members of the business community were recently quoted as saying they don't mind her running if the economic momentum is sustained.

But insiders say the party is not expected to take a stand on this issue, doubtless in deference to GMA's wish not to inject politics into her programs, and the fact that a sizable number of party members earlier endorsed Eduardo Cojuangco.

* * *

At the signing of the Anti-Trafficking Law earlier last week, Senate President Frank Drilon quipped to me that JDV, while in the United States, talked to ranking US officials seeking their support for his pet project, the revision of the Constitution, and then hurried over to the United Nations to enlist Koffi Anan's support, too. And it seems he's succeeding, Drilon cracked.

Actually one of the unreported dividends of GMA's US visit was the thawing of the tensions between the two congressional chiefs over this issue, where they had differed on the method of change. The rapprochement occurred in a nice Italian restaurant in New York City where they lunched by themselves, and discussed how to have better relations between their chambers. GMA later joined them.

* * *

Among the things the two leaders discussed was how local bills, which had largely stalled in the Senate, could be given new impetus. They agreed to support the setting up of a high school in every barangay, as articulated by the President in her State of the Nation Address last year, to be sourced from a combination of CDFs, the national budget and school funds from the IRA. The House bills setting them up will be pushed by Sen. Francis Pangilinan's education committee. To get it going, Drilon recently met with Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda and Pangilinan, while JDV met with House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales, Representatives Marcelino Libanan of the justice committee, Edmundo Reyes of the education committee, Robert Ace Barbers and Juan Miguel Zubiri.

* * *

I understand the two chamber chiefs talked about charter change, but they seemed to be less confrontational about it. Reports indicate they agreed to itemize the issues involved, e.g., the shift to a parliamentary/unicameral and federalism system before 2010, and submit them to their respective chambers for voting as they are taken up. If the requisite three-fourths vote is met, then the issues become, in effect, charter revisions after being approved in a plebiscite. I recall that Drilon had proposed this method of change a year ago.

Meanwhile, civil society leaders are busy drafting the issues to be proposed to both chambers, which includes the holding of elections only every five years. But the more contentious economic revisions will be left to the new parliament to decide.

* * *

I earlier noted the similarity in the way the Middle East peace plan, nicknamed the "road map," between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and the Philippine government's peace efforts with the MILF, are getting stalled. But apparently the Mideast talks are progressing far better despite the "bumpy road" they are taking. Considering the terrible animosity over the years between the 6 million Israelis and the 3 million Palestinians and the countless lives spilled on both sides, that peace could possibly dawn over the tortured land they share is just mind-boggling. Confidence-building measures at this stage include the release of some Palestinian prisoners by Israel and its agreement to allow 25,000 Palestinians to return to their jobs. Within two days Prime Ministers Ariel Sharon and Mahmoud Abbas will meet again at a summit in Jordan, to be presided over by President Bush.

* * *

Authored by the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia, the Middle East road map calls for three phases from 2003 to 2005, when a fully independent Palestinian state is to be realized. Phase I calls for the cessation of violence by Palestinian armed groups and their dismantling and disarming, and the freeze of all Israeli settlement activity in Gaza and the West Bank, and the dismantling of Israeli outposts there. Phase II calls for Palestinian elections, the writing of their constitution and other institution-building measures. Undoubtedly, some issues are going to be more contentious than others, and one of the most difficult will be the Palestinians' desire to have East Jerusalem, where 600,000 of them live, as their new capital. Israel would doubtless refuse to allow this, as well as the return of many of the 3 million Palestinian refugees now abroad.

Israeli Ambassador to Manila Ben Irit Abba met with a few journalists a couple of weeks back and she opined that the three-year timetable may be too short, considering that there has been more animosity between the two peoples in recent times than ever before. She stressed that both sides have to exhibit "clear signs of sincerity" and that much will depend on the dynamics between Sharon and Abbas. But she opined that the idea of the road map is "to give hope" and one has to look at it "[in] a positive light and [with] optimism."

Radical road map toward a Renaissance

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

INSPIRED by the road map drafted by the government of President George W. Bush toward peace for Palestine and Israel, imbued with the same optimism and motivated by the same yearning for peace and development in Southern Philippines, and bolstered by the prospect of millions of dollars to be "poured" into Mindanao (and Sulu), we called an emergency meeting of our loose group of critics, analysts, forecasters and even doomsayers to discuss the implications of this confluence of events that, in our collective mind, is the most monumental development that could pave the way for nothing less than a renaissance in Southern Philippines.

But first, about the "loose group." Actually it is made up of only seven members, although we tried to make it a mystical 13, to approximate in membership, if not in the magnitude of ideas. Napoleon Hill's "mastermind," which in turn was modeled after Christ's men who sup, but our own rules of exclusivity defeated that ideal.

Although we represent different callings (one is a priest), politicians, military officers and even government officials and employees can join our meetings only as invited guests. We have, in other words, assumed the role of the Fifth Column. And because we meet only on Saturdays, we call ourselves the Saturday Group.

Last Wednesday was the first time we met on a non-Saturday and I had to call or text each one and demolish their excuses with the prospect of my spaghetti with its corned beef sauce simmered to perfection, and watching the sun go down through the curtain of bougainvillea in my enchanted garden (the birds and the bees and the wind do most of the planting).

So they came, we discussed and by unanimous decision, recorded our ideas on paper and came up with our own "road map," which is necessarily premised on the fact that relative peace has been made possible with the total elimination of all lawless elements, the disarming of all warlords and the confiscation of all loose firearms.

Otherwise, consider this proposal as just the workings of fevered minds grasping pieces of dreams, or pebbles thrown in a puddle that sink into nothing but endless rings.

Excerpts:

1. The Constitution should be changed so that a federal system of government can be established. This should make possible the replacement of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao with a state composed of the provinces that are geographically contiguous with evident historical and cultural commonalities: Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and the Zamboanga Peninsula. These are the provinces that composed the Sultanate of Sulu, and to complete this historical and logical configuration, Palawan must be returned to this grouping (remember Minsupala?) and rectify the most scandalous case of land-grabbing in the latter part of this century when Ferdinand Marcos in 1980 (or was it 1981?), with one stroke of the pen committed the anomaly of transferring Palawan to Region IV.

2. Establish a naval base in the Sulu Archipelago. The provinces listed above have a naval tradition because the sultanate maintained naval forces of excellent seafarers composed of Tausug, Sama Tawi-Tawi and Sama Balangingi. Considering our proximity to the rest of Southeast Asia, this is absolutely imperative.

3. Return the barter trade to Sulu; after all, the Tausugs invented it. Transferring this lucrative trade to Zamboanga City was another crime of the Marcos regime that resulted in the loss of livelihood of hundreds of Tausugs and the exodus of the rest. Since it is now no longer viable for a barter retail trade in Jolo, convert it into a kind of freeport where all barter goods will be brought from the source and sold wholesale to barter trade dealers from Zamboanga City, who will be strictly prohibited from sailing to Sabah, etc., to directly purchase goods.

4. Ensure that basic services like water and electricity will be constant and adequate; and communication facilities should be at par with the rest of the country.

5. Establish processing plants for Sulu's main products: seaweed and other marine products, coconut, fruits and abaca, with appropriate technology for increased production.

6. Institute a long-term affirmative program for education on all levels, including faculty development: well-equipped schools, a special program that will allow more high school graduates to qualify for enrollment in the University of the Philippines system and state universities in the national capital region. Upon the implementation of this road map, the faculty of all state universities and colleges in Sulu and Tawi-Tawi especially; should all be sent for further studies. They will be replaced by fresh graduates of UP in what may be the educational equivalent of the "doctors to the barrios" program.

7. Improve the Jolo seaport to accommodate inter-island vessels like before, and finish the unfinished airport as well as the unfinished circumferential road.

8. Upgrade Sulu's only government-owned hospital with top-of-the-line equipment, with a competitive salary range for its personnel to keep the more competent ones from seeking employment elsewhere. In the present situation, doctors and nurses, aside from their training, must have a masochistic complex to be able to work there.

9. Design an intensive tourism campaign that will target both the domestic and international markets.

And so this is our road map for whatever it is worth.

* * *

Comments to nm19@my.smart.com.ph

Gloria runs if Erap runs in 2004

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

GUIDING me on lesser-known trails to Mount Pulag's storied peak is my dear friend Manong Inido, who lives with wife and 17 children in a place you can only hike to. The couple are pastor and teacher in their far village. The last time I saw him, he asked me "*Ano po ba talaga ang nangyari kay* Brother Joseph?" This commentary is for him, because I have found another answer I had not then.

Filipinos ought to read "The Rule of Law or the Rule of Force?" by Ateneo law professor Alan Flores Paguia, Erap's new lawyer. The questions of fact and questions of law that he raises about the events on Jan. 20, 2001 are keeping many minds burning the midnight oil of angst over the awesome consequences, if his answers to them are even partially right. He performs savage surgery on the Supreme Court's ruling in Estrada v. Arroyo (353 SCRA 452 and 356 SCRA 108), which blessed the ouster of President Joseph Estrada in Edsa 2. With his permission, I put the entire paper on the Web at "www.andresbonifacio.blogspot.com" so it can be read by Filipinos in and out of the archipelago.

Paguia shows great moral conviction when he challenges the rulings and actions of no less than Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. and other Supreme Court justices because "they swore in the Vice President as President—without requiring proof of compliance with the constitutional requirements" on Jan. 20, 2001—just four short days after the infamous vote on the second envelope. He says this makes the ruling in Estrada v. Arroyo months later, a historic "failure of justice and due process."

Paguia's answer to the question posed by Neal Cruz last Friday, "Who is the real President of the Philippines?", rings loud and clear, "(1) The proclamation of Arroyo as President was void from the beginning; (2) Joseph Estrada lost his power, not his constitutional authority; and (3) he remains the true president under the 1987 Constitution."

Of course, there is the saying that the Constitution means what the Supreme Court says it means and it already answered the question in Estrada v. Arroyo. That is true as a mantra of realpolitik, but the actions of the justices are a separately justiciable matter. Paguia's motion to dismiss all charges at the Sandiganbayan last Friday, for lack of jurisdiction, will surely be denied. He will appeal to the Supreme Court and may get a minute resolution to the same effect. But his construction of due process violations by the justices themselves as the basic tenet of Erap's defense, will make it impossible to convict Erap peremptorily without abetting the very accusation. Thus, the case can neither be won nor lost on its merits in the time remaining before the election. Battling to a stalemate with no hope of victory in court, if you were Erap, and tomorrow were the last day to file for candidacy, what would you do? You will run for president to overturn the Supreme Court in the court of the people's sovereignty.

Erap running would be a sufficient reason for a Gloria candidacy. It is worth recalling her exact words on Rizal Day (Dec. 30, 2002): "In view of all these factors, I have decided not to run for president during the elections of 2004." Clearly, it was a not a promise, an oath or a pledge, but a political "decision" made "in view of all these factors." As such, changing circumstances can reverse the decision honorably.

She tried, wisely, to avoid a contest with Erap back in 1998, preferring to slide down to the vice presidency, there to patiently wait her turn in 2004, while Erap conducted a clinic in the politics of popularity. She was quiet as a clam in the social welfare department of Erap. She joined the bandwagon that would carry her to the Edsa Shrine and Malacañang only after the Catholic Church called on the sitting president to resign, following singing Chavit's odes of October. Her presidency was also due to the miscalculations of Erap's defense lawyers and the senator-judges at the Senate impeachment trial who also created this thrombosis in the second-envelope fiasco.

I don't believe Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wanted to gain the Philippine presidency in the way that she did. Her youthful memories of Malacañang surely intrude in her deep contemplation of things. To fall into her lap as a thing taken from Erap by others and used as remote control or political blackmail—that could not have been the way she envisioned becoming President. Not with that proud obsession to achieve and excel for the love of the Poor Man from Lubao. She may be the main beneficiary of the "civil-society coup" that installed her, but not its principal architect.

But black sheep Joseph Estrada should not have lost the presidency in the way he did to the forces of Edsa 2. This includes the Church, the military and police, the Left, civil society pressure groups, most of big-time media and academe, much of the current political leadership and anyone who owned a cell phone. These are the people who "repudiated the Estrada presidency."

But not Manong Inido and perhaps millions like him. The 2004 elections will be the best way to settle the issue. Let Erap run. Let Gloria run. Let it not be the usual horse race of many political homunculi to give us another plurality weakling. Let it be a one-on-one wrestling match between Erap and Gloria—about our national direction, about the past, present and the future, about justice and reason and law. GMA is not so small and Erap not so weak. Let it be a real election between us and us, at a fork in the road—weighing all the facts and consequences.

* * *

Comments at www.deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com

No envelopes, please, for press releases

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

IN SPITE OF repeated announcements by the INQUIRER that press releases can be sent by e-mail, many PR practitioners continue to hand-carry their materials to the section editors.

The "spin doctors" do not find comfort in the acknowledgment by the personnel in charge, whether by phone or return e-mail, of receipt of their write-ups and accompanying photos. They want the hard copy to be received personally. Unfortunately, some PR people tend to go overboard in their efforts to make their principals look good.

Last week, the PR person of a province adjacent to Metro Manila sent a four-page press release and seven colored photos to a section editor of the newspaper about a "first"-ever activity in that place. The press release was generous with praise for the provincial officials who conceptualized, planned and implemented the project. The photos had a professional photographer's touch.

But it had one problem. It came with a check for P3,000 payable to the section editor and a short note that read "I hope you could help us in promoting xxxxx. P.S. *Pasensiya na po kayo* (Please be considerate.)" The signatures on the note and check were unintelligible. It did not give any clue on the sender's identity.

When I read the last sentence, I wondered whether the request for consideration was in relation to the giving of the check or the amount involved. Was it too much or too low?

It was obvious the check was meant to "encourage" the section editor to act favorably on the request for publication. Whoever sent it must have labored under the impression that the INQUIRER will not publish unsolicited materials unless something of value (cash, food and other useful articles) is given to the section editor or anybody who has a say on what press release should find print or be consigned to the recycle bin.

Policy

The experience is not new to the INQUIRER. The staff is aware of the Filipino habit of gift-giving. Presents or tokens of appreciation are usually given for favors sought or granted, no matter how small they may be and even if the person to whom the request is directed is obliged to give it. The action is a carryover of our "*utang na loob* (debt of gratitude)" or "*pakikisama* (sense of belonging)" attitude.

While it may be true that some forms of gift-giving may be motivated by less noble intentions, the INQUIRER, by and large, considers these gestures as done in good faith and without malice. It is on the basis of this assumption that the newspaper's Manual of Ėditorial Policies spelled out the rules on gifts vis-à-vis press releases, namely:

- Money, whether in the form of cash, checks, ATM deposits or gift checks is an absolute no-no. No money shall be accepted in consideration of the publication of a press release.
- Gifts of insignificant value, e.g., a calendar, pencil or inexpensive pen or key chain, may be accepted if it would be awkward to refuse or return them.
- A gift given at Christmastime or some other occasion, that exceeds P4,000 should be returned immediately with an explanation that it is against journalistic ethics and company policy to accept such a gift. If it is impractical to return it or its return would publicly embarrass a news source, the gift should be donated to a charity under the gift-giver's name.

Donation

Initially, the editor in chief thought of donating the proceeds of the check, on behalf of its sender, to one of the children who has sought the assistance of the newspaper for medical treatment. But this idea was set aside because the name of the "donor" was not known. The donation might be credited to the wrong person. It would be very embarrassing to send the certificate of donation to somebody other than the true donor.

Besides, getting the check's cash equivalent would require the editor to endorse the check, deposit it in another account then withdraw the proceeds after it has cleared. When the cancelled check is returned to its sender, the latter may get the impression that the editor pocketed the amount covered by the check.

The editor in chief felt it was the better part of discretion not to touch the check and just let it go stale. If the sender of the check wants to get it back, he or she can get in touch with me at the numbers indicated below this column. As soon as the correct name and address of the drawee bank and check number are given to me, I will immediately turn over the check to the claimant. No questions asked.

Sorry, but the press release in question will not be published. The embargo is aimed at sending a strong message to its sender, and those who may be similarly situated, that substance and timeliness are the criteria taken into consideration in determining whether or not a press release deserves to be published.

There is no need to offer anything of economic value to the staff to ensure the favorable consideration of press releases. Their publication value will be measured on their own merits, not on extraneous factors.

Here are some pointers to those who want their promotional materials to see print in the INQUIRER. Keep them short or to the point. Long-winded sentences do not impress the editors; they have better things to do than try to get the sense of kilometric words and phrases. The fewer the people shown in the accompanying photos, the better. Not all readers are equipped with magnifying glasses to find out who's who in the pictures.

Finally, press releases sent by e-mail stand a better chance of publication than those that are hand-delivered. A press release that is sent online can be electronically read, edited and transferred to the newspaper pages. When the press release is on hard copy, an editorial assistant has to retype the material all over again before it can be included in the electronic draft of the section. Between a press release that is already in the e-mail system and one which has to be reproduced electronically, the former has a better chance of getting preferential treatment.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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A bill to legalize repression

LAST May 15, a Catholic formation house in Tambulig, Zamboanga del Sur, was raided by a team of soldiers from the 5th Infantry Battalion searching for firearms and armed men. Fr. Dexter Zamoras, the parish priest, decried the lack of a warrant for the raid and Bishop Zacarias Jimenez also condemned it.

The incident is a glaring example of warrantless arrests, raids and other human rights abuses that are likely be committed with impunity as soon as the proposed Anti-Terrorism Bill is enacted into law.

As church people, we condemn terrorist acts such as the recent Mindanao bombings. But we appeal to our lawmakers not to enact repressive laws, decrees and declarations that clearly violate due process and human rights. We are concerned that after the government's declaration of a "state of lawless violence" in Davao City, Moro leaders have been abducted and Muslim communities have been subjected to military surveillance and raids.

In the name of the "war on terrorism," President Macapagal-Arroyo is pushing Congress and the Senate to pass the Anti-Terrorism Bill as an urgent bill. But we assert that the Filipino people must be spared from laws that would only legalize warrantless arrests and systematic repression that could be many times worse than those in the time of the Marcos dictatorship.

We oppose the bill for it seeks to impose the death penalty on offenders; to allow warrantless arrests and the detention of suspects for weeks without charges, among other provisions that place innocent civilians in life-threatening situations like the raid on Muslim communities and the Catholic formation house. Considering the propensity of police and military agents to tag cause-oriented groups as "terrorists," the bill's definition of "terrorism" is totally unacceptable.

We call upon Church leaders to publicly denounce instruments of injustice such as the Anti-Terrorism Bill. We urge the members of the Senate and Congress to uphold fundamental human rights and civil liberties by rejecting the bill.

—REV. FR. ALLAN JOSE ARCEBUCHE, OFM
spokesperson, Promotion of Church People's Response,
3/F NCCP Building,
879 Edsa, Quezon City 1101

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Road widening won't do it

NEAL Cruz has to realize that the Ateneo de Manila University has already ceded part of its property to help widen Katipunan Avenue. Also, further widening of major thoroughfares such as Katipunan Avenue is not the solution to the growing traffic problem, especially when its tributary streets are narrow. Converting a four-lane street, which empties into a one-lane street, into a five-lane street emptying into the same one-lane street will not be of any help.

—LEONCIO L. KAW, M.D.,
Department of Surgery,
UCSD Medical Center,
San Diego, CA, USA

DENR helps protect Angat watershed

WE would like to take exception to the letter of lawyer Jesus Santos to which Neal Cruz referred in his column last May 23.

The Angat Watershed Reservation has long been placed under the control and jurisdiction of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) by virtue of Executive Order 258 issued by President Fidel V. Ramos on July 10, 1995.

But even while the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' role in protecting the Angat watershed has been limited to providing technical assistance to Napocor, our office continues to conduct patrols and surveillance in the area in close coordination with the Philippine Army's 7th Infantry Division based in Fort Magsaysay and the 56th Infantry Battalion (Bravo Company) based in Angat. As of this writing, our people from DENR-Bulacan have been in the area for several days now for a joint mopping-up operation with DENR-Nueva Ecija.

This year alone, our office has confiscated a total of 129.74 cubic meters of "hot" lumber worth over a million pesos. Last year, our forest protection campaign in the area netted 249.5 cubic meters of hot lumber worth P2 million. If anything, this goes to show that the DENR has been doing its job.

With regard to the alleged issuance of a timber license agreement covering some 7,000 hectares in the area, this is an old, malicious and recycled issue that must be put to rest. Records show that no such agreement has ever been issued covering the Angat reservation because a total ban on commercial logging in Central Luzon has been in place since 1976 by virtue of LOI 409 issued by President Ferdinand Marcos.

Finally, how can we reforest "hundreds of thousands of hectares" when the entire Angat watershed reservation is only about 60,000 hectares?

We appreciate and share in Santos' concern for the protection of the Angat watershed, but we would appreciate it more if he could get his facts straight.

—REGIDOR M. DE LEON,
regional technical
director for forestry,
Department of Environment
and Natural Resources-Region 3,
San Fernando, Pampanga

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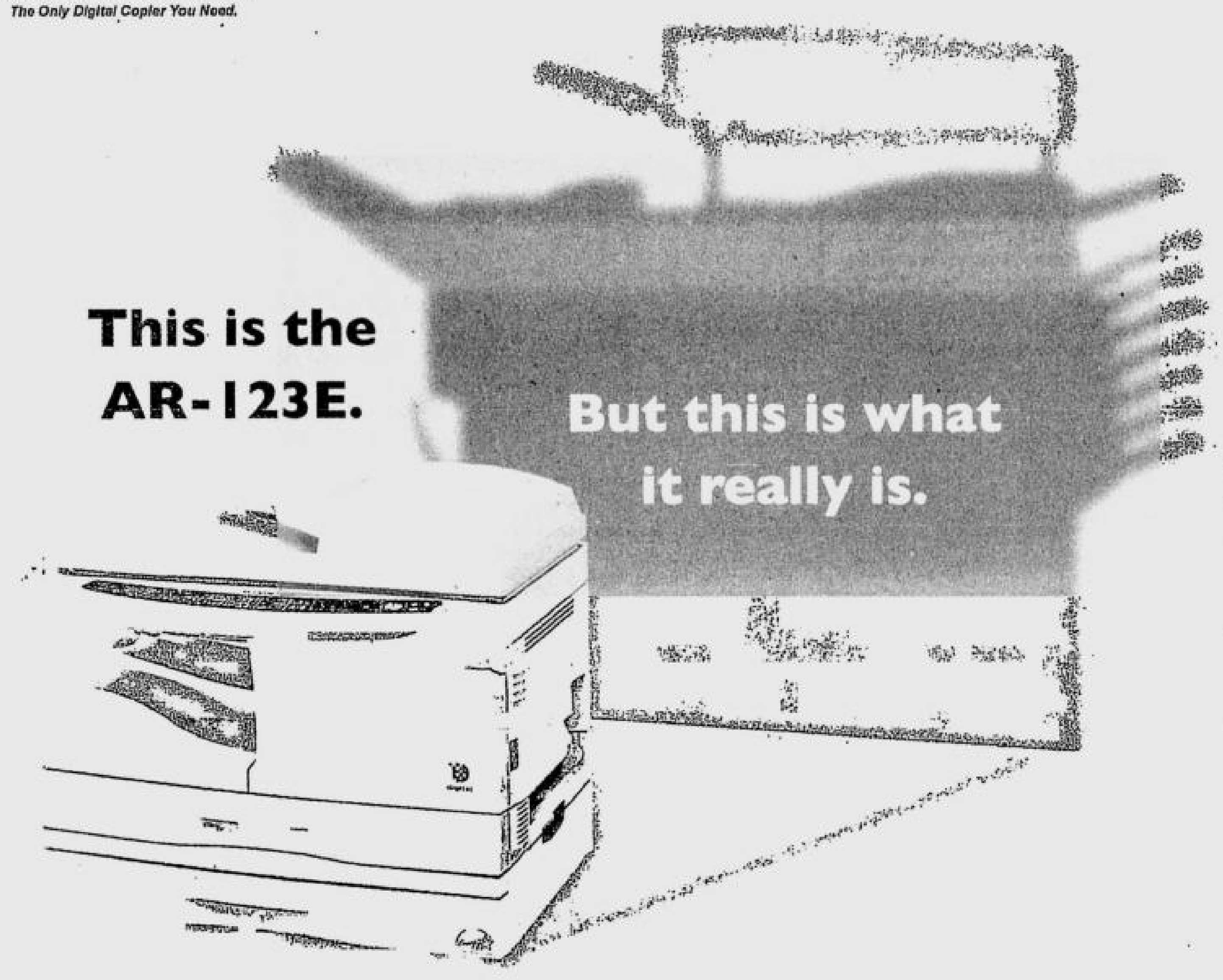

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Vulgar TV hosts are at it again

THE MOVIE Television Review and Classification Board and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters sa Pilipinas should crack the whip and severely penalize abusive TV hosts who are engaged in coarse and vulgar jokes.

In ABS-CBN's daily noon time variety show "MTB," Willie Revillame, Randy Santiago and John Estrada are fond of making statements with sexual overtones.

Last May 17, Revillame was shouting the word, "Jack..." and turned to the audience and asked for their reply. They chorused, "En Poy." But when Revillame again shouted, "Jack..." John answered in a loud voice, "Kol." The word is Tagalog slang for masturbation.

A few weeks ago, Revillame holding a cake, asked a dancer repeatedly who was celebrating her birthday, "Do you know how to blow?" Embarrassed, the lady just smiled. Revillame did not stop. He kept on pestering the lady with the same question, "Do you know how to blow?"

This was foul. Revillame was referring to oral sex.

Two weeks ago, Revillame boasted to his co-hosts, "*Mambabastos na naman ako dahil wala naman akong natatanggap na sulat galing sa* MTRCB."

In the segment, "Urong Sulong," last March 15, 2003, a contestant was asked: "*Sa aling giyera nagmula ang mga salitang* 'weapons of mass destruction'?"

Revillame approached a lady dancer and said, "*Ang ganda nito, ah, puwedeng alagaan.*" He continued with this vulgar question, "*Kayo bang mga* Gee Girls *may* experience *na sa buhay?*" And then, pointing to another dancer, he remarked: "*Ito marami sigurong* experience, siguro sa Quezon Avenue *ka dati. Sa* restaurant *daw nagbebenta ng ulam, inilihis pa.*"

Revillame approached another lady dancer with a sarcastic question: "*Ikaw ba ay na* World War I *na?" Ang* World War I *ang pinakamasakit* because it is the first time *na nagkaroon ng giyera. Dahil papasukin ng mga kalaban ang iyong tinataguang kuta.*"

Santiago prodded the girl to answer the question. Revillame said that he, Santiago and Estrada would examine the girl like doctors.

Last March 15, 2003 Revillame, Santiago and Estrada rendered a double meaning song, titled, "Mr. Beejay," which referred to oral sex.

The actions of Revillame, Estrada and Santiago are highly objectionable, immoral and unethical. They have no consideration for the children who watch the program nationwide.

Revillame was banned for quite some time because of his behavior on TV. A recidivist like him should be banned for life.

—BOY BLUE P. FILOMENO
spokesperson,
Philippine Alliance
Against Pornography,
San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan

Walking the line between safety and security

WITH REFERENCE to Ramon Tulfo's column last May 6, 2003, concerning Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra, I would like to clarify some things about the incident, being the pilot in command.

In these times of heightened terrorist activity all over the world, and in Asian airports in particular (Davao being one, Jakarta another), we as pilots are put in the frontline of the war on terrorism. We are trained to spot unusual activities and events and take appropriate action, if need be.

All airline crew, even with the proper identification, have to pass through rigid security for there is the possibility that our loved ones would be held hostage to force us to do things against our will.

In this case, my co-pilot saw a man, who later turned out to be the congressman from Palawan, approach the aircraft from the arrival area. (Normally, all security-checked passengers pass through the departure area and walk toward the plane.) He was carrying a black bag.

I had not been informed that there was any government official who might avail himself of the "courtesies of the house" as Tulfo called it, so I went to the passenger entry door to check his identity and plug any possible lapses in security. I told the cabin crew at the door that we would "politely" ask the man to go through the normal security procedures.

When the man boarded the plane, I asked him to go to the closed service door, away from the other boarding passengers. (I don't believe any of the other passengers heard what I said.)

"Sir, I don't think you passed through the airport security," I told him.

"*Heto* bag *ko*," the man said.

"Sir, I am not authorized to inspect your bag. Could you please wait here while we call the authorities to clear this up? By the way, how did you get in?"

"ATO," he said, referring to the gate at the Air Transport Office.

I excused myself, left him with the head cabin attendant, went back to the cockpit to attend to my flight preparations and called for airport security.

If in that brief exchange, I offended the honorable congressman, then I humbly apologize. We at Philippine Airlines often walk the line between safety and courtesy and sometimes one of these things is compromised. My purpose in putting him in a "corner," as Tulfo called it, was to isolate a suspicious individual and his belongings from the other passengers. As he himself told Tulfo, "He is just protecting the safety of his passengers."

I am glad Congressman Mitra agrees that the action I took was necessary. It is unfortunate that the circumstances of our meetings were not ideal. Again, I apologize.

—EMMANUEL DE VELA,
pilot in command, PR 196,
Philippine Airlines,
P.O. Box 1955, Manila

QC road left unrepaired

THE 400-square meter lot acquired by the city government many years ago to be used as an access road beside the Tandang Sora barangay hall connecting Adelina Rodriguez Street, Carmel V subdivision, Quezon City, needs rehabilitation. If it cannot be paved for one reason or another, at least it should be regularly maintained or asphalted. It is surprising that a road adjacent to a barangay hall and a public high school has remained unattended for so long.

In the interest of the public, may we appeal to Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. through the City Engineer's Office to repair this road?

—RAMON B. ZAMUCO SR.,
Delta Village, Tandang Sora,
Quezon City

Inhumane, unnatural

THE SIGHT of a circus elephant walking loose on the streets of Metro Manila may have been an entertaining spectacle, but it's just the lightest side of the much sadder world these animals are forced to inhabit day after day.

The use of wild animals in circuses and animal shows is inhumane and unnatural in every aspect of its operation. These animals are often trained using abusive methods to get them to behave in unnatural ways just to offer entertainment. They are kept in confined cages and are often transported in even more oppressive conditions. Away from their natural habitat and forced to perform in ways contrary to their nature, these animal shows are essentially showcases in cruelty and degradation rather than entertainment. It was no wonder that Jumbo would rather take a walk.

The seemingly graceful and talented animals performing at circuses and exhibitions are but parodies of what these creatures are in the wild, where they truly belong, are adapted to survive and where they perform their own unique parts in the web of life.

As it is, Asian elephants like Jumbo are currently on the endangered list of The World Conservation Union. This means that at least a 50-percent reduction has been observed in the population over the last 10 years, caused by habitat loss and exploitation of the species. Their use for animal shows further adds pressure to their dwindling population and promotes a distorted appreciation of the beauty of wildlife. Let us appreciate animals in their natural world, and keep in mind that wildlife properly belong in the wild.

—ANABELLE PLANTILLA,
executive director,
Haribon Foundation for the
Conservation of Natural
Resources, 4/F Fil Garcia Tower,
140 Kalayaan Ave,
Diliman, Quezon City

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

WORLDBRIEFS

G-8 focus: AIDS, poverty

EVIAN, France—World leaders sought to put the deep divisions of the Iraq war behind them on Sunday by demonstrating a more united front on efforts to combat poverty and AIDS in the developing world. US President George W. Bush challenged other nations to follow America's lead and pledge dramatic increases in support for the battle against AIDS. Before leaving on his European trip, Bush signed into law a US program that would provide $15 billion to fight the disease over the next five years and said he hoped the action would prod other wealthy nations into similar commitments. *AP*

Protesters block road to Evian

ANNEMASSE, France—Anti-globalization demonstrators blocked a highway leading to the Group of Eight summit site in Evian early Sunday morning, and riot police fired tear gas and water cannon to break up the protest. In Switzerland, police shot rubber pellets to control rioters. The early morning protests kicked off a day of demonstrations scheduled to coincide with the arrival in Evian of most of the leaders of the world's seven industrial powers and Russia. Police and soldiers have enforced a large security cordon around Evian. *AP*

Asian ships, ports vulnerable

SINGAPORE—US and Southeast Asian defense chiefs said Sunday that security should be tightened to prevent terrorist attacks on ports and waterways, but a lack of resources is making the job difficult. "With the hardening of land and aviation targets, the threat of terrorism is likely to shift to maritime targets, particularly commercial shipping," Singapore Defense Minister Tony Tan told delegates at the second annual Asia Security Forum. *AP*

Abbas hogs spotlight

JERUSALEM—Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas will be thrust under the spotlight of international diplomacy when he attends next week two landmark summits alongside US President George W. Bush, analysts said. "The United States wants Abbas to be the pillar of its Palestinian policy, and by attending the summits he will mark his entrance onto the international stage," Palestinian commentator Ali al-Jirbawi said. Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, will steal the show from veteran Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who has been deliberately sidelined by the United States and Israel. Abbas is due to attend a US-Arab summit in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on Tuesday along with Bush, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and other key Arab leaders. *AFP*

SARS kills 7th health worker in HK

HONG KONG—A seventh Hong Kong health care worker has died of SARS, and Canadian authorities were investigating four recent fatalities at a Toronto hospital as possible cases although the patients had shown no symptoms of the virus. In Taiwan, officials handed out free thermometers in a nationwide "take-your-temperature" campaign Sunday, amid signs the island's containment efforts appeared to be paying off. The number of daily infections remained in single digits for the third day in a row. *AP*

US bomb suspect captured

MURPHY, NC—The man suspected of a string of bombings in the southern United States, including one at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, was captured on Saturday in the North Carolina town he vanished from five years ago, ending one of the most intensive manhunts in US history. Eric Robert Rudolph, 36, was picked up before dawn by a young police officer on patrol in Murphy, North Carolina, the remote mountain region where he is believed to have hidden out since 1998, law enforcement officers said. Attorney General John Ashcroft hailed the capture of "the most notorious American fugitive on the FBI's most-wanted list" and praised local police. *Reuters*

BUSH-PUTIN SUMMIT

North Korea, Iran urged to scrap nuke programs

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia—President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin urged North Korea and Iran on Sunday to halt development of nuclear weapons, and Bush stood by his assertion that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction.

Both the United States and Russia are "determined to meet the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction," Bush said at a joint news conference. "We strongly urge North Korea to visibly, verifiably and irreversibly dismantle its nuclear weapons program."

He added: "We are concerned about Iran's advanced nuclear program and urge Iran to comply in full with its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."

While agreeing that they both opposed the spread of nuclear technology, the two leaders remained at least partly at odds over Iran's nuclear program.

The Bush administration claims Russian sales of technology to Iran is helping Tehran to develop a nuclear weapons program. Russia has denied that its help is going toward weapons development; Iran says its nuclear program is strictly for peaceful development of energy.

"Russia and the United States have mutual concerns about the advanced Iranian nuclear program. We understand the consequences of Iran having a nuclear weapon and therefore we want to work together . . . to insist that they do not have a nuclear weapon," Bush said.

"I appreciate Vladimir Putin's understanding of the issue, and his willingness to work with me and others to solve this."

But Putin, while agreeing that the spread of nuclear weapons should be prevented "not only with regard to Iran but also with regard to other regions," had some pointed words on the subject.

"We are against using the pretext of a nuclear weapons program of Iran . . . as an instrument of unfair competition against us," he said. "The positions of Russia and the United States on the issue are much closer than they seem. We need no convincing about the fact that the weapons of mass destruction proliferation should be checked and prevented throughout the world."

Question on Iraq WMD

Bush answered tersely when asked about the search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Bush charged that Iraq had such weapons, and used the allegation as his primary justification for going to war there.

"We've discovered a weapons system, biological labs, that Iraq denied she had, and labs that were prohibited under the UN resolutions," Bush said.

Earlier this weekend, Bush pointed to two suspected biological laboratories found in Iraq. But both the Pentagon and US weapons hunters have said the labs do not constitute arms. US intelligence concluded last week that the mobile labs probably were designed to produce biological weapons.

Putin offered no opinion on whether such weapons would be found in Iraq. British Prime Minister Tony Blair, in an interview with Sky News Television, said he had "no doubt whatever that the evidence of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction will be there. Absolutely."

Russia opposed the US invasion of Iraq, leading to friction with the United States, but both leaders said they were putting the dispute behind them.

The "fundamentals between the United States and Russia turned out to be stronger than the forces and events that tested it," Putin said. *AP*

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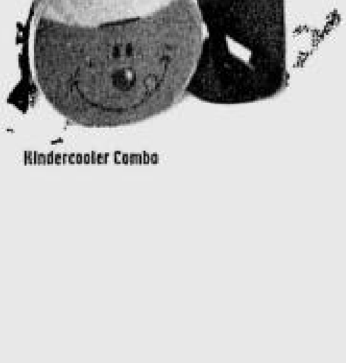
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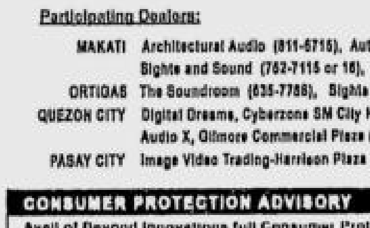

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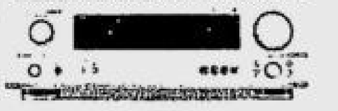

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Burma junta closes opposition party offices

RANGOON—Military government closed offices of Aung San Suu Kyi's party across Burma on Sunday, a day after detaining the Nobel Peace Prize laureate following a clash between her supporters and thousands of pro-government protesters in which four people died, party sources said.

Top leaders of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party were being held under house arrest in the capital, they said.

The junta said Saturday that it had placed Suu Kyi and 19 members of her party into "protective custody" after the violence during a political tour by the party leader in northern Burma. Some 50 people were also injured.

The NLD's Rangoon headquarters was closed Saturday and "will be temporarily shut until the present problem is solved," Brig. Than Tun, a government spokesperson, told a news conference. "Otherwise, more problems can be caused."

Suu Kyi's release from 19 months of house arrest in May 2002 had raised hopes of an end to Burma's long political stalemate. But Friday's bloodshed, which followed weeks of rising tensions, appeared to shatter any illusions that her party and the country's military rulers could soon overcome their differences and negotiate a return to civilian rule.

The military—long accused of human rights abuses by western nations—has ruled Burma for 40 years. The current junta called elections in 1990 but refused to hand over power when Suu Kyi's party won by a landslide.

The violence Friday erupted when Suu Kyi's motorcade tried to pass through a crowd of about 5,000 government supporters who were waiting in the streets of Dipeyin town, Than Tun said Saturday. A scuffle around her motorcade turned into a fight which left four people dead and 50 injured, he said. He denied reports that Suu Kyi's car had been shot at, and it wasn't clear if the dead included NLD members.

Than Tun said he did not know when Suu Kyi would be returned to Rangoon.

He and other government officials have accused Suu Kyi of making inflammatory speeches critical of the ruling junta.

The government spokesperson added that Suu Kyi had violated an agreement with the junta by reopening some party offices without telling local authorities.

Suu Kyi, who won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, had been expected to return to Rangoon on Wednesday, two days before a visit by a United Nations envoy aimed at restarting talks between the government and the opposition.

A United Nations statement late Saturday said that Secretary General Kofi Annan believed the "developments underline the urgent need for national reconciliation."

The NLD headquarters, located near the foot of the famous Shwedagon Pagoda, was also raided, searched and closed by authorities in September 2000, but was reopened after a week.

A party office in the northern city of Mandalay was closed Saturday, according to witnesses.

Residents and NLD sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Sunday that the party's branch offices in greater Rangoon and other parts of Burma were also being shut. *AP*

HOLDING a poster of Burma's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and wearing a T-shirt with her portrait, a woman chants slogans during a Sunday rally by about 50 protesters, mostly Burma residents in Japan, demanding her release outside the Burmese Embassy in Tokyo. AP

Toyota Unleashes the New Vios

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corporation announces today the introduction of the new premium compact sedan, the Vios, to the Philippine market. Toyota's all-new vehicle boasts of a contemporary body design, a spacious interior, world-class safety features and a new engine powered by the VVT-i technology. With all its performance features and new stylish design, the Vios is targeted as a lifestyle vehicle for the young market. Toyota is also launching an aggressive marketing campaign for the Vios featuring the most famous celebrity today, Britney Spears.

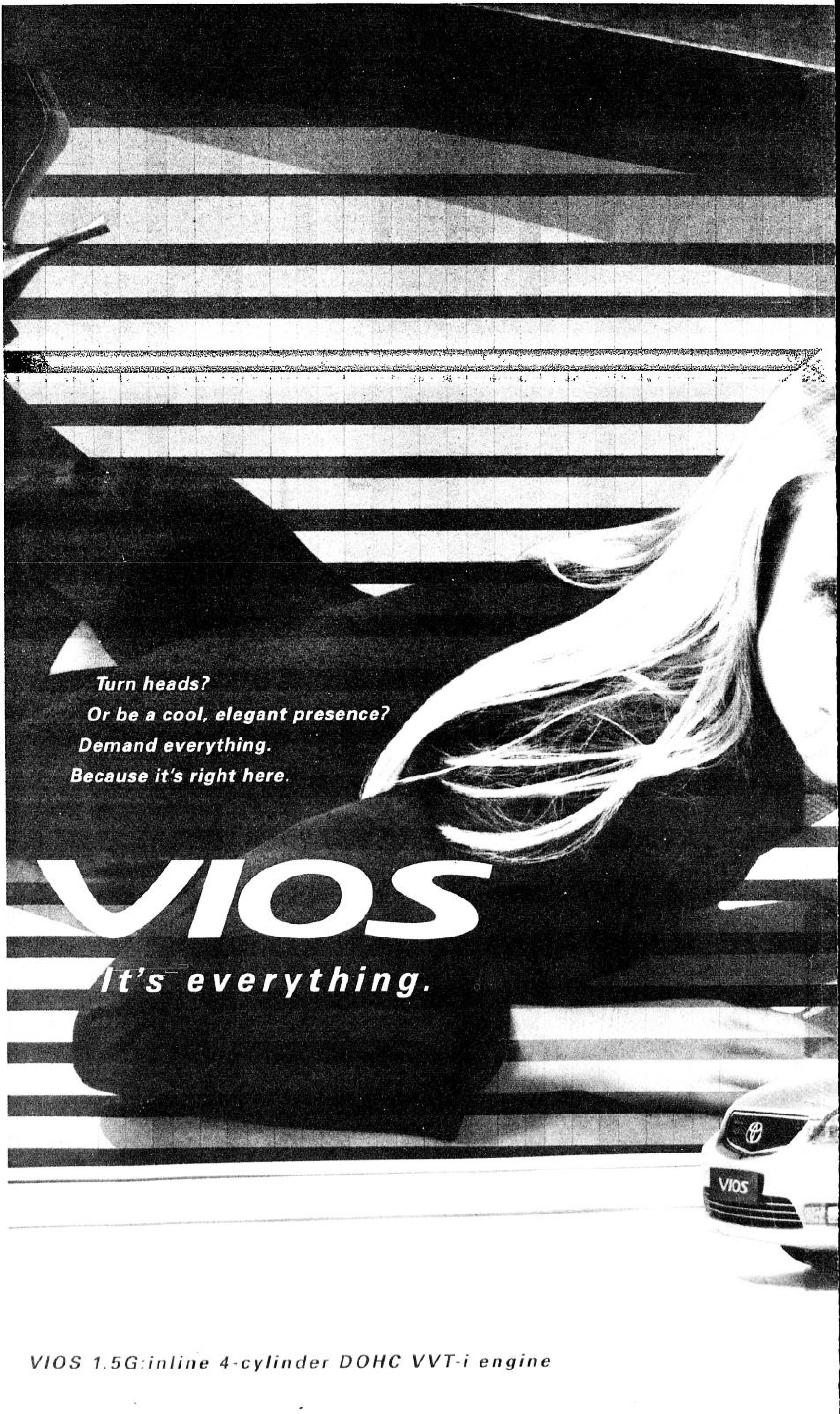
The Vios, which means "to move forward", epitomizes the all-new attitude and concept behind Toyota's new compact sedan. It manifests the look, feel, and performance of a modern vehicle and has been designed to fit and reflect the stylish and dynamic lifestyle of today's generation. The sleek multi-reflector headlamps and the front grille already add to the distinction of the Vios' youthful character. Its all-new body design creates a sporty look while the accented door sections surrounding its tires and color-keyed side protection moldings emanate a fresh and yet, a classy design. Furthermore, sharply slanted rear fender and protruding rear bumpers provide the sporty profile to the Vios.

This all-new compact sedan offers state of the art aerodynamic design that reduces wind noise, improves acceleration and maneuverability, and ensures better fuel efficiency. With a body design that yields a coefficient of drag (CD) of a low 0.30 similar to a Lexus GS300, the Vios promises a pleasurable driving experience.

The new Vios will be available in three variants- the 1.5G A/T, 1.5G M/T and the 1.3E M/T. Both 1500 and 1300 variants are powered by Toyota's VVT-i technology - Variable Valve Timing with Intelligence. With the VVT-i, the new Vios delivers higher power with its optimized valve timing that delivers powerful torque through low-to-medium engine rpms. The VVT-i engine also uses fuel more effectively keeping waste to a minimum, thus resulting to efficient combustion that lowers exhaust emissions.

The Vios is also integrated with Toyota's Super ECT (Electronic Controlled Technology) that allows the automatic transmission to adjust to one's driving style for increased power, optimal efficiency and comfort. Super ECT ensures high efficiency gear train that provides enough torque capacity to handle the high power of the Vios' engine. It also delivers high precision hydraulic control that optimizes smooth response to gear change.

The Toyota Vios provides world-class safety features to all passengers by providing great visibility, child lock protection, and the latest in GOA (Global Outstanding Assessment) body, which are all critical to safe driving. In addition to its overall performance in driving, turning, stopping, and lane changing, the Vios' seats are designed to reduce fatigue and provide great visibility to the driver. Added safety features have been incorporated to this new Toyota. Its high mount stop lamp ensures that the driver behind notices one's braking. Front foglamps are built for effective



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AI cites killings of Bayan Muna members

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The killings of at least 28 members of groups critical of government policies since 2001 were cited by the Amnesty International (AI) in its recently released 2002 annual report.

They included four members of the partylist group Bayan Muna who had "disappeared" and were feared to have been killed, according to the AI report released on May 28.

Human rights violations, including attacks on journalists and human rights activists were also committed in the Philippines, said the AI.

The London-based rights watchdog noted that "serious human rights abuses, including unlawful killings, (were) committed by government forces and opposition armed groups" in the ongoing armed conflicts between the government and various rebel groups.

The abuses included harassment, killings or "disappearances" of opposition politicians, activists and journalists.

"In many cases the authorities claimed that those killed were members or sympathizers of the NPA (New People's Army)," the report said.

AI also cited the killing of human rights activist Benjaline "Beng" Hernandez, 22, who was killed along with three farmers in Arakan town, Cotabato in April last year. The rights watchdog said it believed Hernandez "was summarily executed as a result of her legitimate work in defense of human rights," contrary to the military's claim that she was an NPA rebel killed in the crossfire between rebels and government militiamen.

It said individuals "publicly portrayed as active NPA sympathizers risked being viewed by the military as legitimate targets of counter-insurgency operations, making them highly vulnerable to grave human rights violations."

AI noted that the NPA launched attacks on civilian targets and killed political opponents following the killing of two congressmen in 2001.

The report also cited the killing of journalists Edgar Damalerio and Sonny Alcantara who died in "suspicious circumstances in May and August respectively. It said several other journalists were "harassed and intimidated."

The AI also cited reports of "torture and ill-treatment of criminal suspects by police, including rape and sexual assault of female prisoners and mistreatment of children, highlighted deficiencies in the administration of justice."

It said child suspects, especially street children and those involved in substance abuse, were "frequently detained without access to social workers and lawyers for extended periods and were vulnerable to torture and ill-treatment."

Cases of rape, sexual assault and other forms of torture of women while in detention were also reported, according to AI.

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 385 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

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driving through rain or mist. Another safety feature is the Vios' Child Lock Protection that when activated, allows only door access from the outside and prevents it from accidentally being opened by child passengers.

Fundamental to passive safety is Toyota's world-renowned GOA body. This technology is tested at significantly more stringent standards that would guarantee safety to all passengers. Side door impact beams are provided in all side doors for protection of occupants in case of a side impact.

Passengers are treated to the rich atmosphere and ample space the Vios offers. A spacious interior with an advanced "compact and tall" body shape concept coupled with its long wheelbase and ample height mean more than enough room inside this premium sedan. Extra room is provided by the Vios to allow its driver to have high visibility and upright seating position that ensures maximum comfort, ease of operation and clear visibility. The new Vios' compact rear suspension and other refinements have resulted to a large-capacity trunk that gives enough space for more convenience. This compact sedan has a minimum turning radius of 4.9m that offers good maneuverability not only in narrow streets, but also in tight parking spaces.

The Vios' premium interior exudes modern style and class not found in any compact sedan reflecting a synergy of form and function. Metal accents in the center panel, A/T shift knob, and switch base to both driver's side and its opposite side complement the Vios' stylish two-tone gray interior. Its instrument panel features a rounded design and metallic accents that enhances its advanced, cool, and premium ambience. Comfortable seats of the Vios have the same seat structure as the new Camry providing utmost comfort in any driving condition.

The new Vios is fully equipped with the latest in ergonomic design. The center digital meter with VFD (Vacuum Fluorescent Display) uses large numbers to provide an advanced image and greater visibility. VFD meters, in spite of their distance from the driver, are easier to read, which minimizes driver eye and head movement. The Vios' easy-to-operate audio system and simple dial-type controlled air-conditioning system are strategically placed for convenience and maximum comfort. The reliable TVSS (Toyota Vehicle Security System) is used with the keyless entry system. Premium power features such as power outer mirrors, power windows, and power door locks are all found in the new Vios.

Also included are convenient pockets in handy places such as a large glove box, an upper tray that stores items like sunglasses and other items, a center console storage space that is provided to hold cellular phones while traveling, a center lower console box that stores up to 12 CDs, a large pocket located below the steering wheel, door pockets, front cup holders and rear cup holders that can fit any size of drink, and a seat back pocket on the passenger's side.

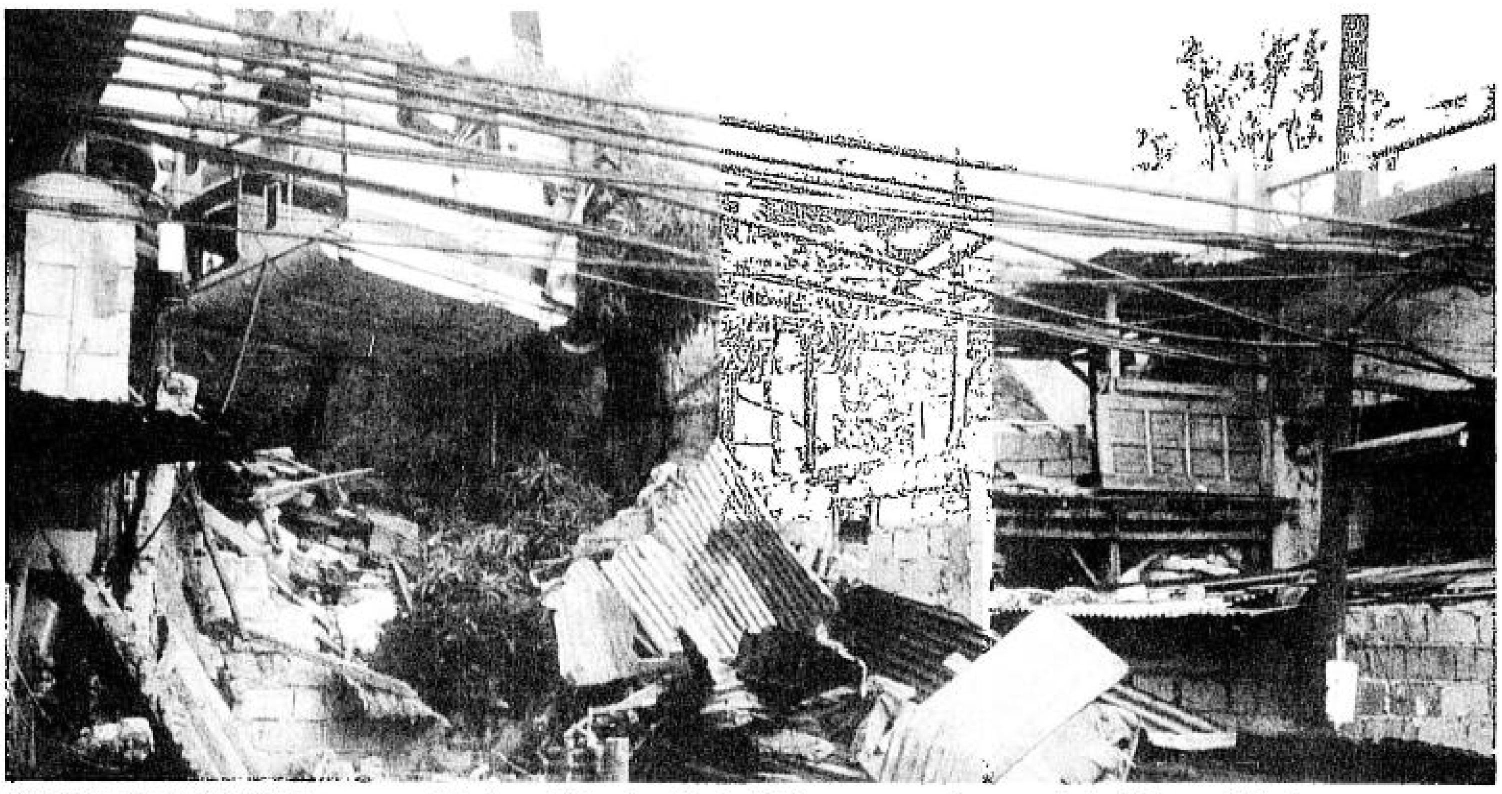
Rounding out the new features of the new Vios are different exciting body tones that are available to suit different characters. New colors like Silver Steel, Ember, Subtle Gold, Xtreme Black, Scarlet Fury and Rave Blue are now available for the different variants of the Vios.

The Vios will be available in all Toyota authorized dealers by the first week of June. For now, interested customers can check out www.e-clubvios.com to know more about the exciting probabilities the new Vios will bring to everyday living.

ADVT.

'I thought it was only a nightmare'

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



AN LPG tanker fell into this slum community below a bridge along the South Expressway, causing a massive traffic jam on Saturday. MARLON RAMOS

BINAN, Laguna—Ely Bantayan was in deep sleep at way past midnight on Saturday when he was awakened by an unusually loud noise.

Before he knew where the noise came from, he found his partner Rosita Orense, 52, trapped under a 12-wheeler gas tanker.

Their small shanty under the Biñan Bridge of the Southern Luzon Expressway (Slex) was instantly torn to pieces.

He couldn't believe what he saw. "*Akala ko bangungot lang* (I thought it was just a nightmare)," Bantayan said.

He said he tried to pull Orense out of the tanker but he himself got caught in the debris.

After freeing himself from the rubble, Bantayan tried to save his partner's life.

"After 20 minutes, I successfully pulled (her) out of the truck. But she was already lifeless," the teary-eyed Bantayan told the INQUIRER.

Orense's ribs and internal organs were crushed, causing her instantaneous death.

He himself suffered a broken hip and major bruises on different parts of his body. The right portion of his face was also swelling.

Bantayan said he called for help but saw his neighbors running around. "I guess they were afraid the tanker (might) explode," Bantayan said.

The nightmarish incident left 10 other persons injured, including the driver and two helpers of the ill-fated trailer truck. They were rushed to the nearby Perpetual Help Medical Center and were released after receiving first aid.

Vehicular accidents, especially during the rainy days, are common at the Slex, said Sofronio Salavera, supervisor of the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC).

"But we haven't experienced an accident as terrible as this," Salavera added.

PNCC and witnesses' accounts said an unidentified van hit a white Toyota Corolla car around 12:30 a.m., Saturday.

The impact threw the car toward the steel railing of the bridge.

The Corolla car driver told PNCC officials that he saw the van hitting a tanker on its left side.

The collision caused the truck to crash into the steel railing of the bridge and to fall down into the squatter's area below it.

Salavera said the truck had just come from loading liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from Total Gas Company in Batangas City and was on its way to Manila.

The accident instantly caused a monstrous traffic jam on both lanes of Slex.

Salavera said officials from the NRG Transport, owner of the trailer truck, have agreed to shoulder the expenses of the victims.

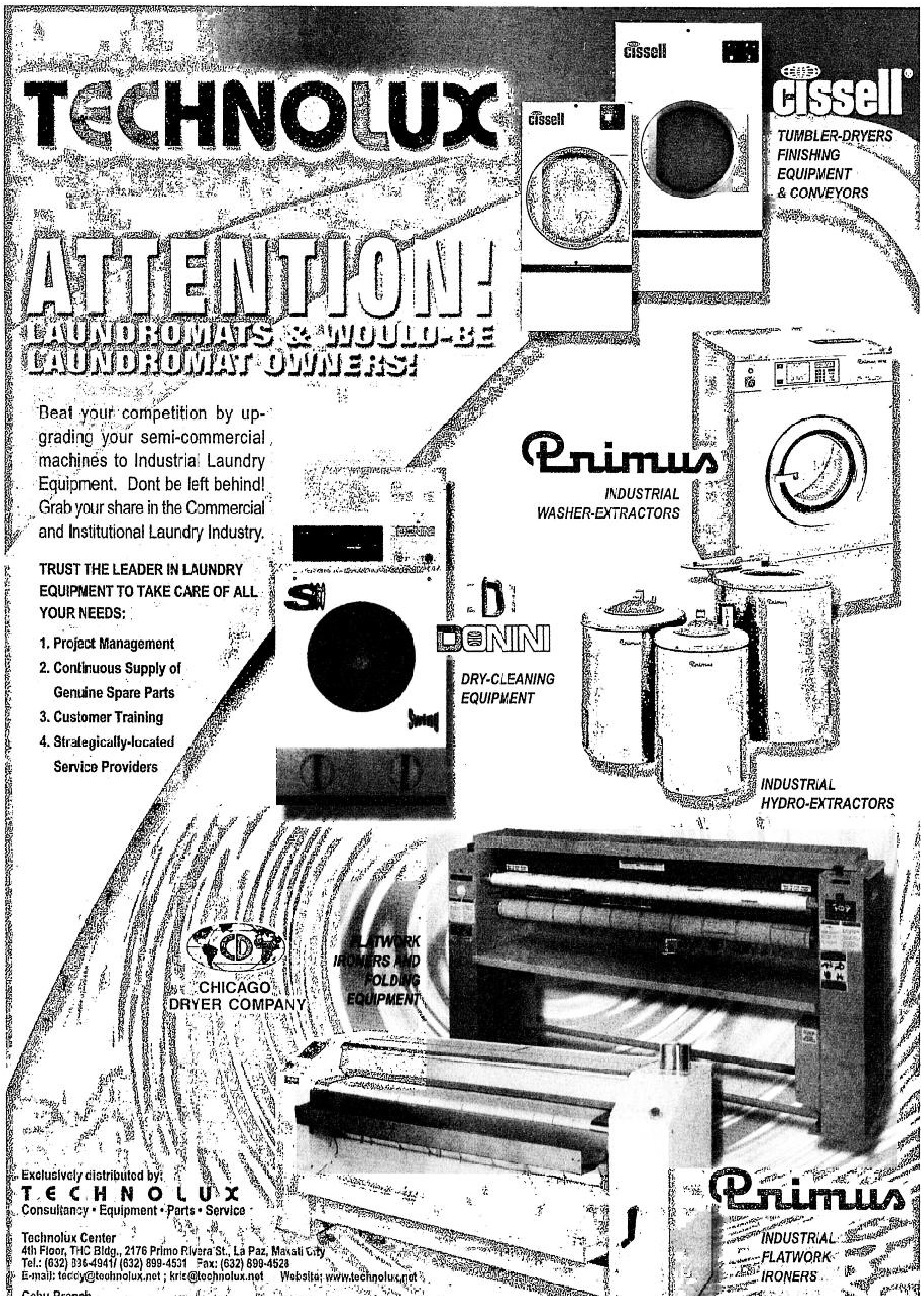
He said PNCC officials are now hunting the van, which they said, caused the accident.

Marilyn Escobido, who sustained an injury on her right leg and bruises on different parts of her body, said they were still waiting for the owners of the killer truck to give them assistance.

"We don't know who will pay for our ruined house and appliances. The PNCC officials have no answer for us," Escobido said.

NRG representative Percy Dapadap said they would ensure financial help for the victims.

Authorities had a hard time removing the tanker from the site yesterday for fear that some of the leaking LPG containers might explode.



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4 dead in 3 Quezon road accidents

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—Four persons were killed and several others injured in three separate road accidents along the Maharlika Highway in Gumaca, Quezon.

A police report showed that a four-year-old boy identified as Kasuhiro Yap and his babysitter, Yolanda Macala Algano, were both pronounced dead on arrival at the nearest hospital when the bus they were riding in was hit by a wayward Philtranco bus in Barangay Buensoseso on Saturday.

At least five more passengers of the ill-fated Raymund bus bearing plate number EVK-423 were also severely injured and were treated in two Gumaca hospitals.

Police said the Philtranco bus bearing plate number EVJ-943 was headed for Manila when it swerved to the opposite lane upon reaching a curved portion of the highway and hit the left front side of the coming Raymund Bus.

On Friday, another passenger was killed and at least four were injured when a Mitsubishi L-300 van was bumped by a Superlines bus in Barangay Calumanguin, the same town.

Two days before that, another bus passenger was also killed and at least 21 persons were injured when a Superlines bus was hit, this time by a Philtranco Bus in Barangay Villabota, in the same municipality. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Fisherfolk slam illegal fishing

IBA, Zambales—More than 200 fishermen, belonging to at least 25 organizations in the province, denounced illegal fishing in the province's waters on Friday, saying this threatens their only source of income.

The fishermen, who gathered at the Ramon Magsaysay Technological University here, celebrated on Friday the "Araw ng Mangingisda" in Zambales.

Prudencio Evangelista, chair of the Pampangisdaang Reporma Adhikain ng Samahang Mangingisda ng Zambales (Para sa Maza), said illegal fishing methods, like dynamite fishing, the use of *lambaklad* (Japanese fish trap), and the proliferation of illegal fish cages, have caused a decline in Zambales' fish harvest.

Evangelista cited a study by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, which showed that Zambales' waters have been yielding an average of only 9,573 metric tons of fish a year.

"Our province is expected to yield about 22,999 metric tons of fish every year but we are experiencing a shortage of 13,426 metric tons of fish yearly," he said.

He attributed the problem to the worsening condition of the coastal areas of Zambales and the lack of effective fishery-related ordinances.

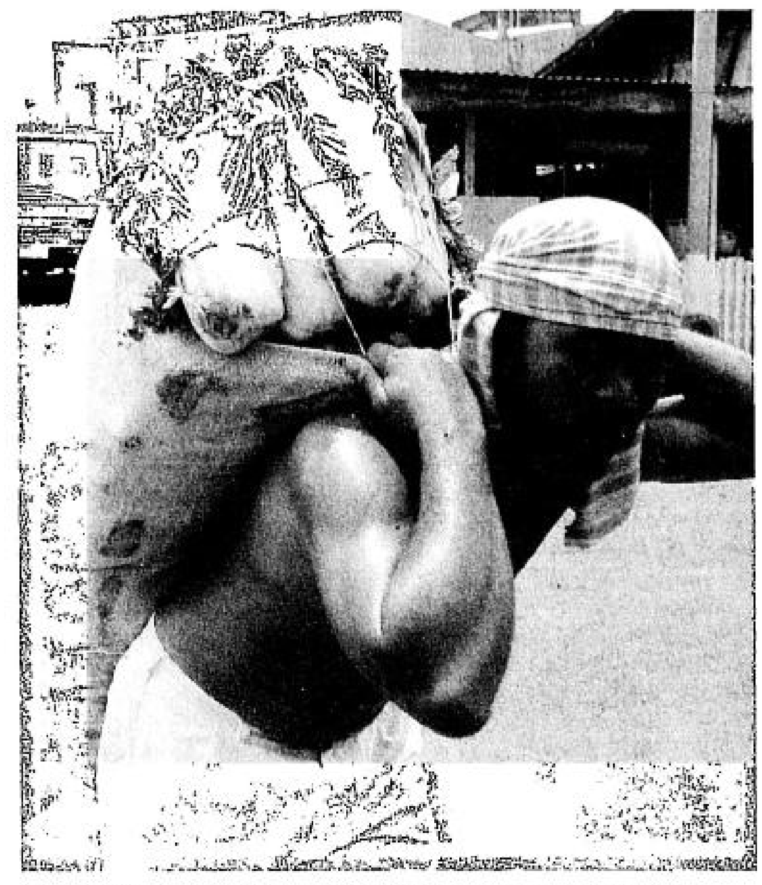
Leaders of several groups of fishermen in the province lamented that many resolutions and ordinances in different towns of Zambales do not necessarily address the problems of fishermen, such as lack of food security and low yield every year.

"A number of resolutions and ordinances in the entire province of Zambales that pertain to fisheries do not directly solve the dilemmas faced by fishermen. In fact, some of (those) give us trouble," said Aladino Edquid, Para sa Maza vice chair. He did not elaborate.

Edquid appealed to local officials to carefully study the "effects" and "defects" of resolutions and ordinances that they pass, especially those concerning the plight of local fishermen.

Recently, Zambales fishermen also endorsed a resolution urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to help them remove illegal fish cages and pens in the protected area covering the towns of Botolan, Masinloc and Palauig.

They said these fish structures have no environmental compliance certificate and permit from the Protected Area Management Board. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



A MARKET porter carries a sack of freshly harvested Chinese pechay from Kapatagan, Davao Del Sur. BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Gov't alarmed by aging farmers

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. has asked rural bankers to open exclusive credit to enterprising young farmers, after disclosing that the average Filipino farmer has become too old to produce the country's daily meals.

The government, he said, has been alarmed by the depletion of active farmers because many have reached the retirement ages of 65-68 years old and have no handy replacements.

In exchange, Magsaysay promised full support to proposed laws that would ease or re-model the tax framework of rural banks.

Magsaysay, who chairs the Senate committees on agriculture and banking and finance, addressed the 50th Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) Convention here on May 22.

Banking figures reflect a decrease in agricultural activity, according to Jerry Coloma Jr., RBAP president. He said the figures reflect the impact of globalization.

Farmer loans have dropped from 70 percent in the 1990s to about 40 percent this year, Coloma said, adding that the trend has been eroding steadily since Australian, European and Chinese vegetables, fruits and food products began invading local markets.

Margarito Teves, president of the Land Bank of the Philippines, also noted the decline. He said rural bankers have availed themselves of only 55 percent of the P8-billion credit line the LBP has extended to RBAP.

The credit line is P500 million more than the amount the LBP extended to the bankers in 2002.

Magsaysay said young farmers have slowly abandoned the farms because of global trade. By 2004, full tariff liberalization has been scheduled by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), making selected agricultural products vulnerable to foreign competition.

Teves said the government has been unable to comprehensively finance the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (Afma), which secures safety nets for the industry once full trade liberalization is in place.

He said the LBP had been filling up the government's budgetary lapses, confirming the findings of the congressional oversight committee on Afma in 2001 that LBP, not Malacañang, had been shouldering Afma-related obligations in the last seven years.

But Magsaysay cautioned the youth about their cynicism over global free trade. He said globalization also opened new professional opportunities for young Filipinos. He said local products have the quality necessary to match overseas demands.

He said the government plans to open idle government lands to young farmers. The Central Luzon State University in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, for instance, only uses 250 hectares of its 700-hectare campus, he said.

Young farmers can generate 15 percent of the equity needed to build new farms, he said, which will be subsidized with another 25 percent by the government from a P50 million outlay funded under the 2003 national budget.

"By starting them off with 40 percent equity, you (rural bankers) as partners can look at them as a safe bet," he said.

Magsaysay said he would help RBAP secure from President Macapagal-Arroyo a certification that two proposed rural banking measures are Malacañang priority bills.

Senate bills 442 and 2355 expand rural bank leverages and incentives, including a new provision that recognizes tax declarations as collateral instruments.

Congress bats for extension of agri modernization law

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Members of the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization (COCAFM) said they are asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to extend the full implementation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (Afma) so that its effects on the country's food production can be felt.

Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, a member of COCAFM, said committee members have agreed that funding problems have beset the agriculture department.

"Because of government financial constraints, even the Department of Agriculture could not implement their projects for agriculture modernization. We will ask the President then to immediately release funds for Afma and extend its implementation," Lapus told the INQUIRER.

Lapuz said they have yet to receive funds for Afma this year. They have until next year to implement the modernization plan, Lapus added.

Signed in 1997 by former President Fidel V. Ramos, Afma aims to modernize fisheries and agriculture in the country by transforming them into technology-based industry from being resource-based.

A bill that will extend the life of Afma until 2010 is now pending in Congress.

Magsaysay, COCAFM chair, revealed that they are eyeing the controversial Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Funds to finance Afma.

The DA reported that only P11.6 billion of the P14 billion appropriation was disbursed during the first year of Afma's implementation.

Last year, only P14.4 billion of the allotted P20 billion was released for Afma, the report said.

But militant groups in Southern Tagalog doubt the claim of better agricultural production after Afma.

"Instead of helping, Afma had been proven to be a bane to the Filipino farmers," said Jeffrey Dy, Bayan-Southern Tagalog spokesperson.

"Even the lawmakers cannot deny the fact that Afma has done nothing good to the farmers after almost six years of implementation," he added.

He said Afma "only aggravated the misery of our farmers by allowing further importation of agricultural products."

He said Bayan-ST vows to organize protests against the further implementation of Afma and other similar laws and decrees. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Agri experts, execs meet to check virus destroying abaca

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

BAYBAY, Leyte—The devastation caused by the bunchy top and mosaic virus on abaca plantations in Leyte has brought together agricultural scientists and officials here to discuss how to stop the virus that destroys the crop.

"The disease has gotten (on) our nerves. We need to do something to address the problem," said Leyte State University president Dr. Paciencia P. Milan.

"We have little funds but if we get together, put our resources and brains together, we can prevent the virus from spreading outside the region," Milan added.

Local officials have been asking the national government to focus on abaca development on this part of Eastern Visayas because of the increasing demand on abaca fiber for the manufacture of car parts, specifically from Daimler-Chrysler Car Manufacturing. The firm needs at least 250 tons per year for the next five years to replace fiberglass.

Southern Leyte province, on the other hand, produces 20 percent of the world's abaca requirements and is still eyeing around 94,000 hectares for expansion.

Patricio Faylon, Ph.D., executive director of the Philippine Council for Agricultural Research and Resource Development, said the meeting would allow agricultural experts and local government officials to come up with measures to stop the spread of virus that had destroyed hundreds of hectares of abaca plantations in Leyte.

The participation of local governments is vital because of the limited resources of the Department of Agriculture to address the problem, added Dr. Resty G. David, head of the Program Development Division of the DA's Bureau of Agricultural Resources.

The more difficult problem, however, would be to convince farmers to give up their virus-stricken crops, especially if no alternative source of livelihood is offered them.

Although Southern Leyte has established a buffer zone to prevent the virus from spreading, and Leyte has implemented measures to contain the virus, abaca quarantine was recommended as the best option to address the disease. This would mean that no disease-stricken abaca can be allowed to leave the affected farm.

Faylon has urged the local governments in the two Leyte provinces to pass an ordinance to that effect.

In Southern Leyte alone, at least 1,500 hectares were infected with the virus, affecting some 2,000 residents dependent on abaca.

Tobacco agency blames competition for crisis

STA. BARBARA, Pangasinan—The National Tobacco Administration has ruled out massive tobacco importation as the reason tobacco firms have stopped buying locally grown tobacco leaves.

NTA Administrator Carlitos Encarnacion said importation "has always been there" but Fortune Tobacco Corp., the country's biggest tobacco firm owned by Lucio Tan, has refused to buy inferior quality leaves because of competition posed by Philip Morris.

"Fortune wants to improve its cigarettes because Philip Morris has established its plant here, so it is now selective of the leaves," he said.

Reports, however, said Fortune has embarked on massive importation of tobacco leaves from China because of their lower cost compared to the locally produced ones.

Encarnacion was here on May 21 during the annual farmer-fisherfolk festival at the Sta. Barbara nursery reservation.

Gov. Victor Agbayani earlier asked the NTA to help Pangasinan tobacco growers in their appeal to tobacco firms to buy their harvest this year.

He said growers need to be flexible in the coming tobacco season by selling the saleable varieties.

There are 9,000 tobacco farmers in Pangasinan, with 70 percent planting the saplak variety, 20 percent the burley variety and 10 percent the native variety.

Encarnacion blamed the farmers for continuing to plant saplak, a crossbreed of native and burley tobacco, which the NTA had discouraged because of its inferior quality.

He admitted, however, that during the past tobacco season, farmers were not warned not to plant saplak because "they had already planted when the NTA learned about the decision of Fortune."

He said fields in some Pangasinan towns are also not suitable for tobacco growing because of the soil's high salt content, but farmers insist on planting. "And if their produce is not bought, they complain," he said.

Encarnacion said the farmers were also too lazy to classify the tobacco leaves that they bring to traders. "They lump together good and bad quality leaves, which are rejected by tobacco manufacturers," he said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Mamamayan at Pamahalaan Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan

KALAHI

NAPC ULAT SA BAYAN

- Tagum City, Davao del Norte June 13
- Happy Hollow, Baguio City June 18
- Naga City, Camarines Sur June 20
- Tacloban City, Leyte June 26
- Intramuros, Manila June 28

MEDIA HATAW LABAN SA KAHIRAPAN

- NAPC-PIA: National Launch: KALAHI MO! radio commercials June 1-30
- NAPC-PIA: National Launch: 5TH anniversary TV Commercial June 1-30
- NAPC-PIA: KALAHI MTV Launch in all Cinemas nationwide June 5
- NAPC-PIA: National Anthem MTV Launch in all Cinemas nationwide June 12
- PIA: Gawin 1345 OPS Call Center Launch June 14
- NAPC-Quedancor: National Launch: KAPITAN AT KAPITANA KALAHI June 28

IBC 13 - GOOD TAKE (5:30-6:00 PM Monday)
June 23 Episode
- KALAHI SA ISMAR, PASIG CITY
- Persons with Disabilities: "Focus on Ability not on Disability"
- NAPC Microfinance: Kababaihan ang Kabalikat sa Kaunlaran

June 30 Episode
- Housing Assistance sa KALAHI South Rail
- KALAHI Livelihood sa Manggas, Padre Garcia, Batangas
- Urban Poor: KALAHI Scholarship

RPN 9 -ARANGKADA XTRA BALITA (12-12:30NN, M-F)
APRUB! SEGMENT
- KALAHI sa Culiat, Quezon City
  Drainage system & aid in Mosque building June 2
- WORKERS IN THE INFORMAL SEKTOR-Kalayaan Development Coop.
  " Worry Free on Wheels Project" June 5
- KALAHI sa Tanay Rizal with Rebel Returnees June 12
- KALAHI sa Caloocan " North Rail Rehabilitation Program" June 19
- KALAHI sa Northhill Relocation Site June 26
- KALAHI sa Maguindanao : From War zone to thriving communities June 30

SAGOT KO! SAGOT MO!
PAGKAKAPIT BISIG NG PAMAHALAAN AT BATAYANG SEKTOR LABAN SA KAHIRAPAN

NAPC EN-BANC With President GMA, Malacanang, June 21

BASIC SECTOR-LGU Partnership Activities
- Public Launch of Local Poverty Indicators June 28
- Local Government Solidarity Activities June 1-30

BASIC SECTOR-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES Partnership Events

FORMAL LABOR & MIGRANT WORKERS SECTOR
- Forum on the proposed amendments to E.O. 180, Public Sector Unionism June 23-24
- Forum on RA 9189, Absentee Voting Act June 25
- Forum on "Job Corps" program of PGMA June 25
- Forum on the proposed "New Labor Code of the Philippines June 26-27

FISHERFOLK SECTOR
- Bantay Dagat MOA Signing June 28
- Bangka Patrol Ambulances Launch June 28
- Botika sa Bangka ni Gloria Launch June 28
- Bigasan sa Bangka ni Gloria Launch June 28

SENIOR CITIZENS SECTOR
- National Kick off Magna Carta for Older Persons June 28

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SECTOR
- 1ST Conference on Barrier Free Housing Design for PWD June 11
- Turn Over Ceremonies of TALA Building and conversion to Livelihood Center June 14
- Groundbreaking Ceremonies for Socialized Housing for Persons with Disabilities, Tala, Q.C. June 14
- Delivery of School chairs made by PWDs' June 14
- National Launch of PWD Registration June 28

COOPERATIVE SECTOR
- Housing Cooperative NCR Sub-Cluster Meeting June 5
- Inter-Agency Meeting CDA & Cooperative sector June 10
- 2nd Quarter Meeting- Cooperative Sector June 27-28

FARMERS
- Consolidation of Regional Consultations of Land Administration & Management Program- Farmers June 9
- Anniversary of the Passage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law and DAR-NAPC-FSC Commitment Setting June 10
- Planning/Workshop to fast track unresolved agrarian reform cases with DAR June 11-13

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
- Distribution of Certificate of Ancestral Domain Titles in Mindanao 2nd wk. June

WORKERS IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR
- Gender Sensitive Enterprise Development-Kick Off for WIS Council Leadership Program and Women Into the New Network for Entrepreneurial Project (WINNER), Provincial Capitol, La Trinidad, Benguet June 5-6
- Bohol WIS Assembly Orientation Workshop
  Theme: A Global Touch for the Poor through Enterprise Development
  Tagbilaran City, Bohol June 12
- Groundbreaking Ceremonies: Leaderpreneurship Center Municipal Government Center, Agusan Norte June 24
- Worry Free on Wheels Project June 28
- Other Basic Sector Partnership Activities
  URBAN POOR
  VICTIMS OF DISASTERS & CALAMITIES SECTOR
  CHILDRENS SECTOR
  YOUTH & STUDENTS SECTOR
  NGOs' SECTOR
  WOMEN SECTOR

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Intramuros, Manila, June 28-29

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KALAHI Community Day Sa Intramuros

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- Job Fair, Negosyo Skills, Microfinance, Trade Exhibit
- Housing Programs, Security Of Tenure Fast Tracking Programs

Konsyerto at Palatuntunan Handog sa Masa

MENSAHE SA BAYAN NG PANGULO LABAN SA KAHIRAPAN June 30

- Message:
  Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
- Solidarity Activities by National Government Agencies and Local Governments

  Flag Ceremony speeches
  Nationwide Solidarity Banners
  Media Messages

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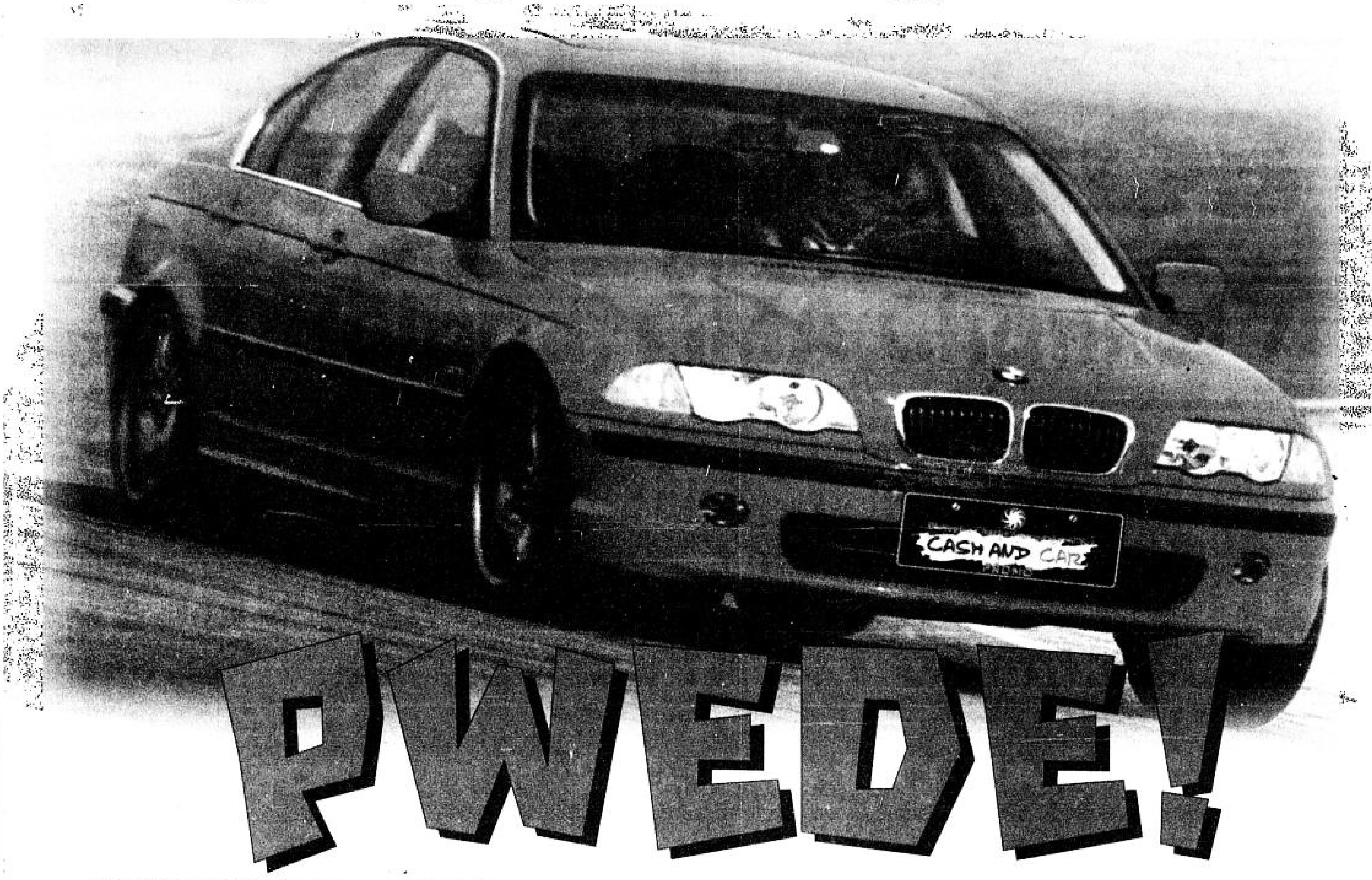

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Palace: No truce with MILF

From page A1

deadline for the MILF to disavow terrorism expired.

Kabalu said the MILF decision to declare a unilateral ceasefire was an answer to the appeal of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and other members of civil society to stop the fighting and pave the way for renewed peace talks.

The MILF claimed that in the 72 hours before the truce, the military bombarded rebel positions in the Buliok complex in Pikit, North Cotabato.

"It's a daylong shelling, but they failed to hit our troops," Kabalu said.

But Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the CBCP, said Garcia had assured him that the shelling in Pikit would not be sustained. It was simply a reaction to the MILF attacks, he said.

"I believe both sides are sincere in having a ceasefire," Quevedo told reporters.

"If the MILF attacks after the June 2 [truce], then I would say they are not sincere," he said.

Quevedo said he also expected "good news" from the President during the ceasefire, but he did not elaborate.

The MILF said that with the ceasefire, the "ball is now in the hands of the government."

"It's up to them to respond. On our part, we already gave an assurance we will not initiate any armed encounter during the 10-day truce," Kabalu added.

As early as Saturday, the order from the MILF leadership calling all its troops to observe a ceasefire had already been relayed to all field commanders, Kabalu said.

"All our men in the field had already been informed. We are hoping government would order a stop in military offensives," he said.

The MILF did say, however, that they will resume attacks at the end of a 10-day unilateral ceasefire unless the government dropped criminal charges against rebel leaders and withdrew troops from captured rebel strongholds.

On the other hand, if the government complied with their demands and took steps to resume long-stalled peace talks, the MILF would be ready to extend the ceasefire.

"This is the first step, the next one would be the government's," Kabalu told The Associated Press by telephone. If the government doesn't act, "it'll go back to normal and normal means there would be fighting as usual," he said.

His measured rhetoric was matched by Garcia's talk.

The AFP spokesperson said the "punitive actions" were not against the MILF as a whole but only against the groups which carried out the attacks on Maigo, Lanao del Norte and Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte.

Garcia reiterated that the AFP was not pursuing MILF chair Salamat Hashim, but only the groups led by MILF commanders Abduraman Macapaar, alias Commander Bravo, and Yayah Lacsadato.

The operations, he added, have largely been successful. The fall of Munai town in Lanao del Norte was followed by the capture of a second MILF camp in the same province, he said. The camp belonged to the 301st brigade led by Commander Bravo.

"We've been able to fragment (them) into smaller groups that are on the run. We have been able to dislodge them from their bases," he said.

The second camp, which had a fortified overhead bunker with quarters good for about a hundred rebels, was discovered abandoned at around 9 a.m. the other day in Barangay Nunungan, Poona, Piagapo, Lanao del Norte.

In Tehran, Iran, at the foreign ministers' meeting of the influential Organization of the Islamic Conference, Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople presented the 1996 final peace agreement between the government and Nur Misuari's Moro National Liberation Front as a brilliant model of "peace through dialogue."

"The world should hear more about this success story, partly attributable to the statesmanship of the OIC," Ople told the OIC secretary general, Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, in a bilateral meeting.

Ople called on the MILF, which started as a splinter group of the MNLF, to follow the example of their former comrades.

In North Cotabato, Gov. Emmanuel Piñol on Saturday said he would give up his post rather than allow control over Buliok to be given back to the MILF.

In February, the military launched offensives in Buliok, believed to be Salamat's base.

Piñol said he would also resign as governor if the government moved to drop the criminal cases filed against MILF leaders, or withdrew government troops from former MILF-occupied territories.

He said the MILF's "tainted" record was more than enough reason for the government to doubt the latest declaration of a unilateral ceasefire. *With reports from Aquiles Zonio, Edwin Fernandez, Charlie Senase, Grace Albasin and Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP, AFP, Reuters*

Lamitan 'hospital of horror' still haunts AFP

From page A1

count of her ordeal at the hands of her abductors will likely lead to new calls for an inquiry. It includes an entire chapter on the siege, titled "Hospital of Horror."

But the available information, culled from various sources, already paints a damning picture of what may be the country's worst military fiasco since Douglas MacArthur neglected to protect Clark Field from Japanese bombers in World War II.

Probes launched by the Armed Forces' own Inspector General, by the Senate committees on national defense and on justice, and by journalists from The Boston Globe and Helsingin Sanomat of Finland have already established at least seven key facts. Some of these facts have been fleshed out in at least two books—Burnham's "In the Presence of My Enemies" and Jose Torres Jr.'s "Into the Mountain."

The INQUIRER has pulled these undisputed facts together into one chronology-driven account.

The Globe-Sanomat report minces no words in describing the siege. "It was an operation that turned into a fiasco that almost defies belief, displaying either military incompetence on a colossal scale or something a good deal more sinister."

More diplomatic in its language, the Senate committee report nevertheless concluded that there was "strong circumstantial evidence to support the allegation of collusion."

This much is certain.

After engaging AFP troops in Tuburan, Basilan, the Abu Sayyaf group that carried out the Dos Palmas raid on May 27 entered the mainly Christian town of Lamitan at about 11 p.m. on June 1, a Friday.

By that time, the Dos Palmas raiders had been beefed up by other Abu Sayyaf bandits, including top leader Khaddafy Janjalani. Together, they stole into the Jose Ma. Torres Hospital with 17 hostages in tow. [Burnham reports that three hostages—all Dos Palmas employees—were left behind, possibly in Tuburan, because they couldn't be accommodated in the jeepney the bandits had hired. Two of the three were later beheaded.]

Some of the bandits entered the neighboring St. Peter's Church. They killed a soldier and Fr. Cirilo Nacorda's driver, whom they mistook for the parish priest.

This started a series of skirmishes which went on until dusk the following day.

Early on Saturday morning, a team of Scout Rangers under the command of Capt. Ruben Guinolbay arrived at the Lamitan port from Zamboanga City. The Rangers were ordered to report to headquarters on the other side of town, but—unaccountably— they were not told that the Abu Sayyaf was already occupying the hospital-church compound, which they would pass on the way to HQ.

At about 2:30 a.m., according to the Magsaysay report [around 7 a.m., according to Torres], the Rangers walked into an ambush. Abu snipers near or inside the church killed two and wounded eight of them.

Sometime between 9 a.m. and noon, hostages Reghis Romero, Rizza Santos and 8-year-old RJ Recio made their controversial dash to freedom—but through the main entrance of the hospital, where most of the bandits were positioned.

Describing the chaotic scene, Burnham writes: "Somehow in the middle of all this confusion, the Abu Sayyaf got word that Reggie and Rizza's ransom money had arrived." According to the Magsaysay report, the three ex-hostages were then taken to meet Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, then flown out by a military chopper to Zamboanga City.

Military pullout

Sometime between 3 and 4, p.m., the soldiers stationed at the back of the hospital were pulled out for a briefing. At least six witnesses, including a former hostage, told the Senate they had seen the pullout with their own eyes.

Military officials have not denied the troop movement, but they have described it as a redeployment of forces, a mere tactical decision.

At about 5 p.m., a jeepload of six or seven Abu reinforcements entered the hospital-church compound through the main courtyard. Asked by their own colleagues how they had broken through the many roadblocks, one of the newly arrived bandits replied within earshot of the hostages: We said we were bodyguards of Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar.

Soon after the reinforcements arrived, the Abu Sayyaf bandits told the hostages it was time to go. Of the 14 remaining Dos Palmas hostages, three were told they would be released to facilitate ransom payments for the other hostages.

At about 5:30 p.m., the group left the hospital through a narrow back gate; the bandits' arms were lowered. To the 11 Dos Palmas hostages, four new ones from the hospital were added. One of them was head nurse Ediborah Yap.

Outside the compound, the group was suddenly fired upon by a small band of policemen and civilian volunteers. In the gunfight, two hostages were wounded and left behind. The chief of the civilian volunteers, retired Col. Fernando Bajet, was killed.

At about 1 a.m. on June 3, the AFP launched a prolonged assault on the hospital compound. From their mountain hideout, the hostages and their captors watched the tracer fire light up the night sky.

Subic port . . .

From page A1

investors relocating to the enclave would be given additional perks.

The government also scored a marketing coup when world leaders converged for the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in 1996, with multinational firms scrambling to set up shop here.

More than a decade after the closure, Subic is now a top eco-tourism attraction and a bustling freeport hosting around 600 international companies that provide jobs to about 50,000 people—more than twice the number when the Americans were the employers.

Exports generated mainly by Japanese and Taiwanese electronics factories have averaged about $1 billion in the past four years, while investments grew 51 percent to P2.5 billion ($47.17 million) in 2002.

Deep water port

And as ports in Hong Kong and Singapore are slowly going over capacity, plans are afoot to expand Subic's deep water port, which is capable of accommodating the largest cargo and passenger vessels.

Leonzon, now Subic's deputy port administrator, says the nine-year plan includes reclamation of about 30 hectares of land to expand the existing port, the first phase of which would likely be operational within the next two years.

"We are now in the process of awarding the first phase of the port development project," Leonzon said in his bayside office recently.

Outside, a huge US naval catamaran from Japan unloaded military equipment, vehicles and supplies for US Marines in joint military exercises with Filipino troops in the north, while a crane delivered precious cargo on to the port.

Once completed in 2012, the port would be able to accommodate 900,000 TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit) containers every year, about half of Hong Kong's capacity of 1.8 million TEUs and very much below Singapore's 2.2 million TEUs, Leonzon said, citing his office's own studies.

"Based on this plan, we will be very competitive and this will be a very busy port that may attract shippers from around the world," he said. "Hong Kong and Singapore may have already reached their full capacity and we are offering an alternative."

Leonzon said he hoped that container ships avoiding the former British enclave and the tiny Southeast Asian city-state because of the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome would look at Subic as an alternative cost-effective site.

International airport

He points out that berthing fees are much cheaper here. Cargo can also easily be brought to other countries aboard commercial planes that fly out of the nearby Subic International Airport regularly.

The SARS outbreak "could be an advantage to a certain extent," with the Philippines reporting fewer SARS cases than Singapore and Hong Kong, among the hardest hit by the disease in Asia.

"Furthermore, everybody who knows Subic port knows that it's one of the best developed by the US navy," said Leonzon. "This development project then would help equalize the playing field for us."

Filipino tourists, as well as those from around Asia, meanwhile, have been flocking here in droves not only for duty-free shopping but also for weekend vacations and outings in various beaches in Subic.

Extreme water sports, like kayaking, scuba diving and para-sailing, as well as jungle survival lessons taught by Aeta tribesmen, who had served under US troops, are top draws. A show that features false killer whales doing stunts with their trainers is also popular.

Data from the Subic Bay Development Authority showed that 8 million local and foreign tourists visited the freeport in 2002, about 15 percent more than the previous year.

But the expansion work never seems to cease—with workers hammering away even at night to finish yet another hotel.

"As they say, after the rain, there is always the colorful rainbow. We just can't discount the possibility that there will always be a better chance for development in Subic," Leonzon said. *AFP*

Evacuees now savor chicken

From page A1

stronghold in the Buliok complex in Pikit.

Malingco belied reports that a number of evacuees were suffering from starvation due to inadequate delivery of food assistance.

She said the deaths in the evacuation centers were not due to lack of food but various ailments attributed to bad weather and poor surroundings. Most of those who died were minors.

For more than two months, since the war broke out on Feb. 11, the refugees had been getting regular supplies of rice, sardines, noodles, mongo and *dilis* (dried fish), Malingco said.

Since May 28, the mayor said, "we have shifted to rice and fresh *tilapia*."

Social workers are now distributing rice and chicken for every family twice a week, she said.

To ensure that every family gets a share of the relief assistance, a distribution system has been adopted, Malingco said.

Assorted goods coming from the local government units, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and other agencies will be closely monitored and recorded by the MDOC, she pointed out.

Efforts to improve the health of the displaced children are also a priority concern, the mayor said during the launching of the MDOC's supplemental feeding program.

Some 6,000 children, who are not more than 8 years old, have benefited from the program in 29 evacuation centers.

Malingco said she hoped that the MILF declaration of a ceasefire would truly usher in "the peace that we've been longing for so long a time."

The Macapagal administration, however, has rejected the rebel offer, saying that the MILF should first denounce links to terrorist groups and prove its sincerity.

DOH OFFICIAL ADVISORY

MONDAY 2 June 2003

15 MORE GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AS SARS-REFERRAL CENTERS

The Department of Health (DOH) has identified government hospitals as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)-referral centers in addition to the Metro Manila-based Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, San Lazaro Hospital. These designated hospitals are the following:

1. Lung Center of the Philippines (*Quezon Ave., Quezon City*)
2. Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (*Baguio City*)
3. Mariano Marcos Memorial Medical Center (*Batac, Ilocos Norte*)
4. Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital (*San Fernando, Pampanga*)
5. Cagayan Valley Medical Center (*Tuguegarao, Cagayan*)
6. Batangas Regional Hospital (*Batangas City*)
7. Bicol Medical Center and Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (*Legaspi City*)
8. Western Visayas Medical Center (*Mandurriao, Iloilo City*)
9. Vicente Sotto Sr. Memorial Medical Center (*Cebu City*)
10. Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (*Tacloban City*)
11. Zamboanga City Medical Center (*Zamboanga City*)
12. Northern Mindanao Center (*Cagayan de Oro City*)
13. Davao Medical Center (*Davao City*)
14. Cotabato Regional & Medical Center (*Cotabato City*)
15. Caraga Regional Hospital (*Surigao City*)

Health authorities said that it is now upgrading the medical facilities and equipment of the said hospitals and is training its staff to best handle possible SARS cases in the future.

Reported SARS cases in the Country
(March 17 - May 30, 2003)

SARS suspects:	
total cumulative admission	88
total discharged	83
presently admitted (May 30, 2003)	2
SARS cases	12
SARS deaths	2
SARS Recovered/Cured	10

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Filipinos with AIDS sew stories in quilts

From page A1

due to AIDS in the country, which has 1,834 documented HIV cases, according to the Department of Health.

Ortega started making quilts seven years ago with around 20 people from the Bahay Lingap, which housed Pinoyplus, a non-government organization for those infected with HIV and others who were newly diagnosed with HIV.

She said many of the Bahay Lingap residents could not sleep at night as they were deeply troubled by their condition. Quilt making was then introduced as "a way of processing themselves."

A quilt, meaning one panel, represents one AIDS death. Each section is composed of eight panels while one block is composed of four sections or 32 panels, representing the same number of people who died of AIDS.

Caretakers, kin

The patterns for the three-layer quilts are designed and sewn, although often left unfinished by people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA). Their caretakers and family members finish the quilts for those who die before they complete their designs.

Depending on the sentiments of the persons with HIV, the designs vary. But surely, each quilt tells a poignant story.

The panel of 6-year-old Joan had her dress, bunny and a sailboat stitched onto it. Joan was still a baby when she was brought to the San Lazaro hospital with her mother, who died of AIDS soon after their confinement.

Her father never visited her after she and her mom were taken to the hospital. Left without a mother, Joan was raised by other women with HIV who all doted on her until she died.

The sailboat on her quilt represented Joan's dreams as a child. She wanted to become a lawyer and to ride a boat to find her relatives in the province. Joan died of bronchial infection in October 1996. Some of her surrogate mothers have also passed away.

Joan's quilt was in one of the four sections that were unfolded during the lotus ceremony in Marikina, where the AIDS Candlelight Memorial was held. Also presented were the quilts of Dolzura Cortez, the first Filipino woman to have given a face to HIV, and Jeremy, longtime president of Pinoyplus.

Cortez's quilt depicted a virus and had this message: *"Madilim, magulo ang buhay ko ngunit dapat harapin* (My life is dark and troubled, but it should be faced)."

Lotus

Jeremy's quilt was a dazzling display of lotuses to show that he would follow wherever life took him and that he would strive to help treat people with HIV. True to his word, Jeremy got support from international donors for anti-retro viral medicines that he distributed first to pregnant women with HIV to lessen the chances of transmitting the virus to their children.

Ortega said the quilts from the Philippines served as a wake-up call to many Filipino migrants and overseas Filipino workers who are most vulnerable to the disease. DOH records showed that OFWs accounted for about 28 percent of all HIV cases in the country.

Many of the HIV cases were seafarers who got the infection abroad and unknowingly passed this on to their wives when they returned.

Mar Legaspi was one such case. He had no wife or children, but he left heartbroken parents when he succumbed to the ailment at 35 in March.

The quilt allowed him to disclose his ailment to his parents. Mar brought home to Lucena Jeremy's quilt, which he was then finishing after Jeremy had died.

Curious about their son's sewing, his parents asked about the quilt. Mar told them that it was for someone who had left a kid when he died of complications due to AIDS.

Mar further said many Filipinos had fallen victim to HIV. That many families could not accept it. That indifferent family members regretted it later. And that he was among those afflicted with HIV, who hoped that his family would stay with him.

"His family never left him until he died," Ortega said.

US traders …

From page A1

public and private sectors, pointed out that some business costs in the Philippines, especially bureaucracy, electricity, labor and transport, were higher than regional competitors.

The Amcham report, titled "The Roadmap to More Foreign Investment," said the Philippines should modernize infrastructure, improve governance, slow population growth, accelerate legal reform, reverse declining English standards, and improve security.

"The report contains well-known problems that are of concern to foreign investors in the Philippines and that have been identified repeatedly by international surveys which have shown a gradual deterioration in Philippine competitiveness in recent years," said an Amcham official, who requested anonymity.

The Philippines has slipped 13 steps to 61st spot out of 80 countries covered in the latest Global Competitiveness Report released by the World Economic Forum.

Incisive, consistent

The Amcham official said the report had been welcomed as "incisive and consistent" with goals of reformist elements in the Philippines.

"We acknowledge the start of reforms to deal with many of the problems and hope these reforms become deeper and be effective and long lasting," he said.

While American investment in the Philippines was still rising, the Amcham report "identified issues for the Philippines as a nation to improve in order to attract even more foreign investment capital in future years," he said.

While American investors were happy with the quality and costs of telecommunications, they were concerned about inefficient transport and the possibility of brownouts occurring again if power reforms were not implemented soon, the Amcham official said.

US and Japanese companies are among the largest employers, taxpayers and exporters in the Philippines.

Japanese concerns

The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry's main concerns are ill-developed infrastructure and labor and security problems.

The chamber raised the problems with Ms Macapagal five months ago, but "we have yet to see positive policy measures permeating through the entire bureacracy," Japanese Ambassador Kojiro Takano told reporters last week.

"This clearly illustrates that the national government's key policies are not properly disseminated, not correctly enforced in the local level," Takano said.

Takano cited "sudden changes" in an automotive taxation system and an "irrational" customs duty regime as examples of "lack of coordination, consistency and rationality" in government policies.

Problems faced by Japanese businessmen have hit tourism earnings.

"Japan is merely four hours away from the Philippines by plane, yet more Japanese tourists go to Thailand which is a good seven hours away, to Singapore, or to Indonesia," he said.

But Takano's stinging comments on security—in which he described the Philippines as dangerous and frightening—drew an angry response from Ms Macapagal, who felt they were "exaggerated and unfair."

Ms Macapagal, however, said the government would take such criticism "as a challenge for us to do better."

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the Japanese ambassador's comments could be "a wake-up call" for Ms Macapagal, who has promised not to run in presidential elections next year. *AFP*

For once, VP agrees with foreign policy

From page A1

the Islamic Conference.

It was the first time Guingona had publicly expressed agreement with a major government foreign policy after President Macapagal-Arroyo asked him to resign as foreign secretary over policy differences on the US military presence in the country.

"Our presence and consistent participation in the deliberations of the OIC will create a climate that will favorably affect peace conditions in the Southern Philippines," Guingona said.

"As clearly pointed out in Tehran by Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, the Philippines, with its substantial Islamic population, fully qualifies to be an observer in the OIC," the Vice President said.

Guingona had opposed the DFA's stand on the RP-US Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement; Ople's mission to the European Union to have Jose Ma. Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and his comrades tagged as terrorists; and the country's support for the US invasion of Iraq.

Just a few weeks before Guingona stepped down from the DFA, Malacañang had announced that he had resigned as foreign secretary, which the Vice President vehemently denied. He later quit after settling matters with the President.

There were reports that Ople had been offered the DFA post as early as December 2001, purportedly as part of administration efforts to decimate the opposition's ranks in the Senate.

"We are likewise gratified that our application for permanent observer status will be supported by a resolution to be filed by Indonesia, which currently chairs the Committee of the Eight that monitors the Muslim situation in Mindanao," Guingona said.

After the ministerial meeting in Tehran, the leaders of the 57-member OIC are due to meet in October in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, at which time the Philippine application will be formally endorsed for approval.

Guingona called the country's bid for observer status "properly timed and solidly grounded."

Asean members of the OIC are generally supportive of Philippine efforts to become an observer in the organization, according to Ople, who attended the 30th Session of the ICFM (Islamic Conference Foreign Ministers) in Tehran.

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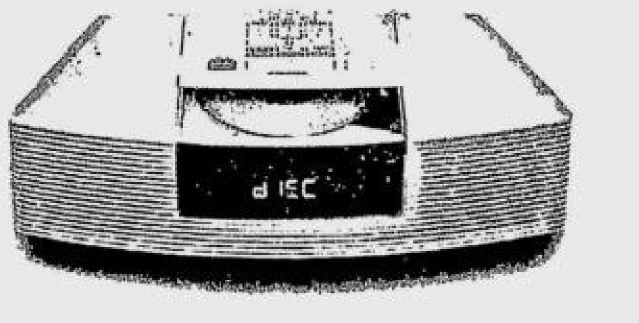

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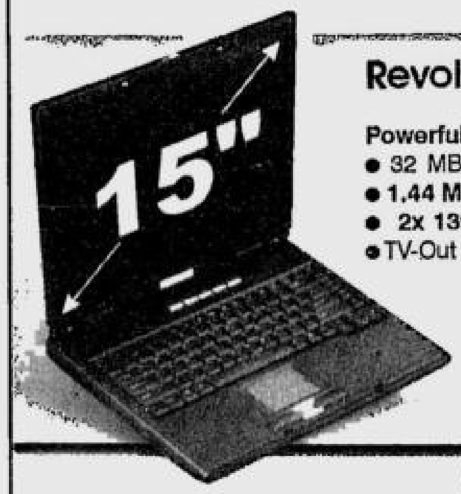

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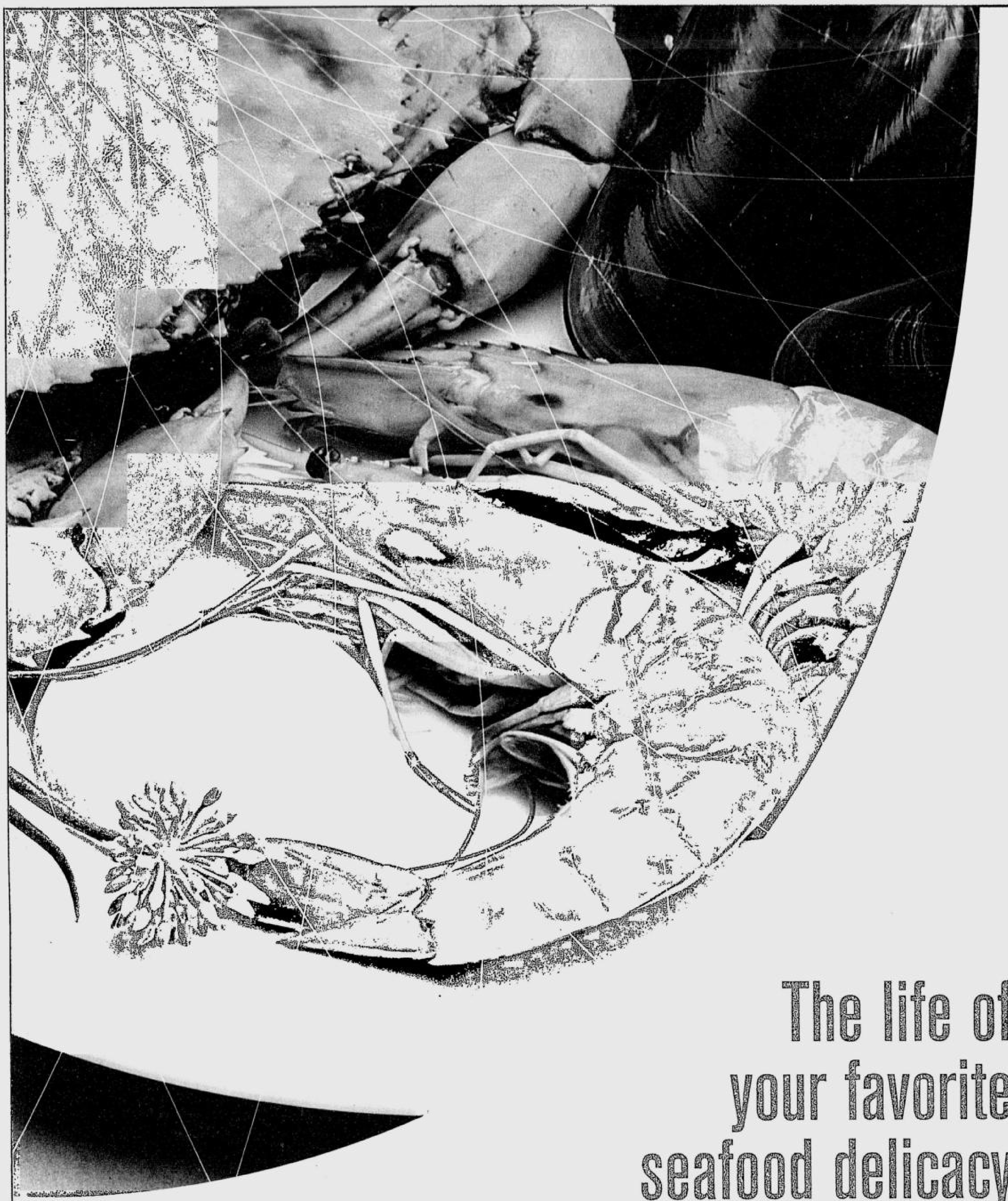

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Security for students assured

SECURITY measures in all schools and universities in Metro Manila are now in place in preparation for the opening of classes on June 16.

National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief deputy director General Reynaldo V. Velasco said in a press statement that he has directed Metro Manila district directors and chiefs of police to beef up their anti-crime drive especially on street crimes.

These crimes include cell phone snatchings, holdups and robberies, which naturally rise during school days.

"While we have succeeded in reducing street crimes… the challenge is to maintain the high-level anti-crime drive in the metropolis," Velasco said.

He said he has also sought the assistance and cooperation of the local government units particularly the barangay officials and watchers, in the implementation of security measures to protect students and maintain peace and order in their respective areas.

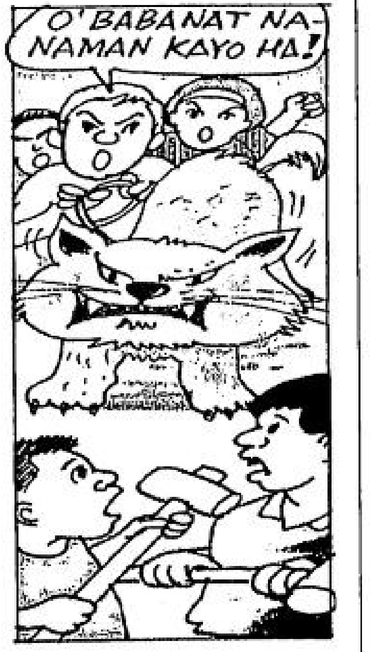
"Volunteerism is essential in our concerned effort to fight criminals and prevent terrorists from sowing fear and executing their evil deeds during the opening of classes. We are assuring the public that more policemen will be deployed in strategic areas for their safety," Velasco said.

He has also instructed all the district directors to strictly implement police visibility in all schools.

Transport Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza also said security measures are now in place in all air, land and water transportation sectors in the country in time for the opening of classes.

Cat-and-mouse game played on Katipunan

By Amy Remo


O' BABANAT NA-NAMAN KAYO HA!

WHEN the cat is away, the mouse will play. Or so is the case with Metro Manila Development Authority personnel tasked to demolish concrete road islands and uproot trees on Katipunan Road in Quezon City.

Last Saturday, Katipunan residents saw MMDA workers preparing to demolish the service road islands at around 8 a.m.

The demolition is in preparation for uprooting the trees along the busy thoroughfare for road widening.

Seeing the concrete island as the trees' last line of defense, the residents appealed to the MMDA men to stop.

To their delight, the residents said the MMDA personnel were "nice enough" to heed their appeal. The demolition crew, however, did not leave the area saying they were only following orders.

Odette Alcantara, convener of the Artists for the Environment, said the MMDA would have surely resumed their work as soon as those opposing the demolition left the area.

"They strike when our backs are turned. That's why we're keeping vigil," Alcantara said

So, to prevent any demolition of the road islands, the protesters gathered volunteers to go on hourly shifts to keep an eye on the MMDA men until they left the area.

Alcantara said, "As long as we keep constant watch, they would not proceed with the demolition."

However, the MMDA has already uprooted some of the smaller trees in the islands and has partly demolished many of the concrete structures.

Yesterday, protesters held a demonstration on Katipunan at around 3 p.m. to keep the pressure up on the MMDA.

Also on Saturday, people from various socio-civic and environmental groups, faculty from schools and universities in the area and residents met and came up with alternatives to the road widening project.

They also drew up strategies to stall, if not stop the project, until their proposals were heard.

The group will be holding a prayer rally for the trees at 6 a.m. on June 5 in front of Cravings restaurant and to commemorate World Environment Day.

Meanwhile, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando wants to penalize people who plant trees along public roads.

He said that could prevent future conflicts like the one about the balling of trees along Katipunan.

According to Fernando, private citizens should not just plant trees on sidewalks, roadways and islands because the trees might do more harm than good.

"Let the government do the planting on public roads so that it could be done properly," he said in a phone interview.

With a report from Leila B. Salaverria

Tesoro-de la Vega dies at 96

CONSUELO "Conching" Tesoro-de la Vega, grandmother of INQUIRER Libre sports editor Chito De la Vega, died last Friday. She was 96.

Lola Conching was born in Dingras, Ilocos Norte, and was a long-time resident of Project 4 and Blue Ridge, Quezon City. She was the widow of the late Luis Paredes-de la Vega of Bangued, Abra.

Her remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City. Interment will be tomorrow at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after the 9 a.m. Mass.

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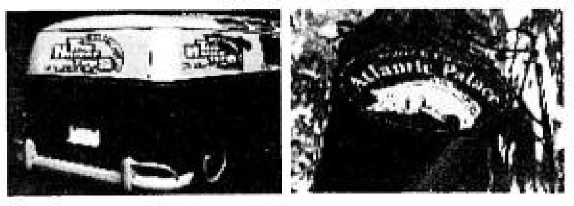

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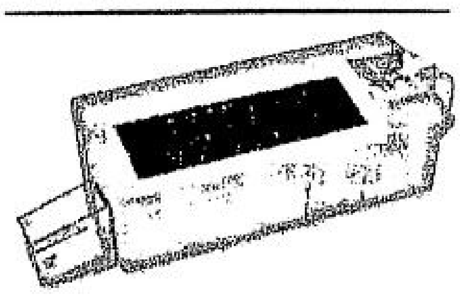

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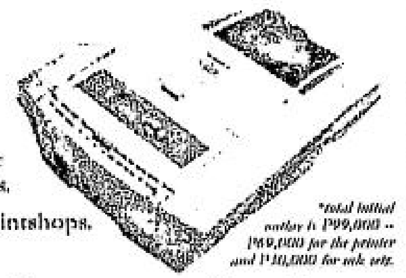

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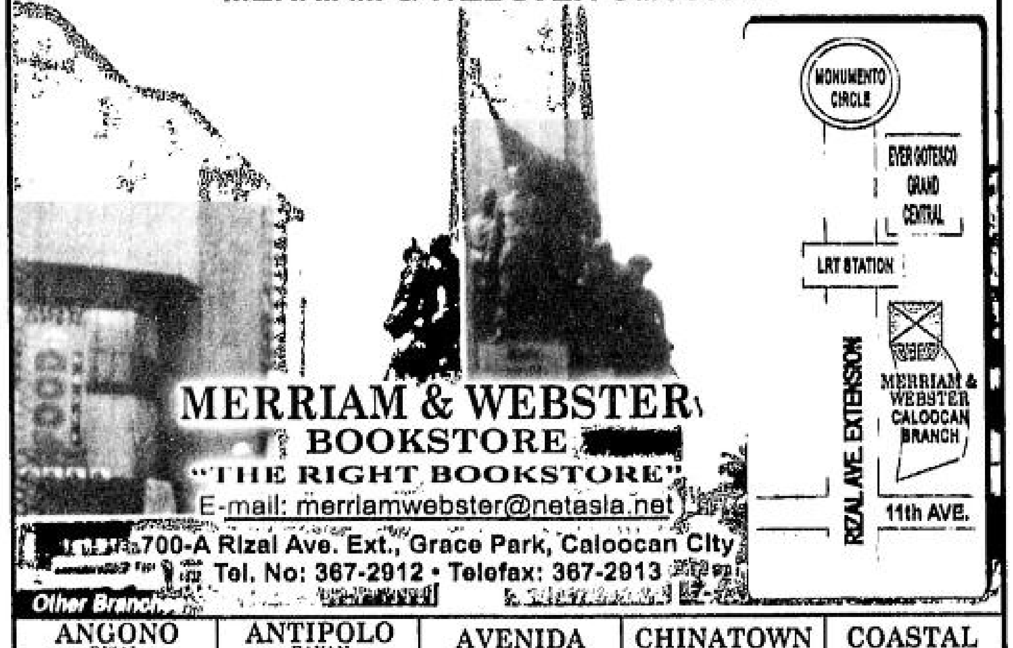

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CASTILLO: Surprised by win. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Math major is new Mutya ng Pilipinas

By Marinel R. Cruz

GIRL POWER and luck were two of the reasons why Jaime Liz Castillo on Saturday won the 2003 Mutya ng Pilipinas, she said after the pageant at the Teatro Arturo Enrile in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Castillo, 20, a math major from De La Salle University in Manila, said she was only a few points ahead of Angeline Tucio, 18, who was first runner-up in the beauty pageant.

She said her vital statistics of 34-25-36 were no match to Tucio's 34-24-35 figure, which gave the first runner-up the best in swimsuit award.

"I guess I was lucky," she told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"All the candidates were really talented and witty. That's why I never really expected to be picked as one of the top five finalists, much more win the title.

"Maybe it was how I answered that night's crucial question that made the difference," Castillo said.

Her reply to the make-or-break question "What is a woman without a man?" was this: "A woman without a man is still very much a woman. . . A woman who knows what she wants and can stand by her principles. That's what I call girl power."

Castillo, who bested 23 equally beautiful candidates, will represent the country at the Miss Asia Pacific beauty search in November.

In 1999, Castillo won the Mutya ng Malabon title.

Second runner-up in last Saturday's pageant was Pasig City representative Fiona Marie Lava, while Victoria Altares, a Filipino-Canadian, snatched the third runner-up slot.

This year, the Mutya expanded its search to include Filipinas around the world.

Filipino communities in Canada and the United States were the first groups to send representatives.

Tough anti-smoking policy set in Makati

By Leila B. Salaverria

SMOKERS in Makati City have until mid-June to huff and puff before the local government implements a stringent anti-smoking ordinance.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said the ordinance was supposed to take effect yesterday but its implementing rules and regulations were still being worked out.

The anti-smoking ordinance will prohibit smoking in all private offices and enclosed public spaces, which will be required to provide a smoking area.

Smoking will be totally banned in government buildings, schools, hospitals and clinics.

Violators face fines from P1,000 to P3,000 or imprisonment of three to six days. Establishments that would ignore the ordinance face closure.

64 day care centers set up in Las Piñas

LAS PIÑAS City has set up 64 modern day care centers which can accommodate over 5,000 children aged 4 to 6 years old.

Mayor Vergel Aguilar said in a statement that the establishment of the centers was funded from the P100 million savings the city government made from its garbage collection and management.

The centers, which is the brainchild of Mrs. Imelda Aguilar, will be used to prepare poor children in the city before they undergo formal schooling, Aguilar said.

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Anti-drug drive expanded

Crackdown now includes Cabinet, local gov't execs

By Christian V. Esguerra

GOVERNMENT officials who will be found to have employees using illegal drugs or dealing in prohibited substances will face criminal and administrative charges, according to Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, police anti-illegal drugs task force chief.

Governors, congressmen, mayors and even Cabinet secretaries will be held responsible for keeping their offices drug-free, he said.

"As government officials, they have the responsibility to ensure that their workplace is drug-free," he told the INQUIRER, after Interior Secretary Jose Lina issued a warning against drug users in uniform.

Lina on Friday said that drug tests would be conducted in a random manner from top officials of the PNP down to the precinct, station and barangay levels.

"If proven positive (for drug use), they will face the full force of the law," Lina said.

Expecting a backlash, Aglipay challenged officials who would be charged to go to court and question the principle of command responsibility, the primary basis of their supposed liability.

He said the crackdown was also a key component of the guidelines of the Renewed Campaign Against Illegal Drugs which he had drawn up upon the orders of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Members of the newly formed anti-drug task force will conduct random drug tests using urine samples of government officials and employees, Aglipay said.

Should any of the subjects test positive, the person and his immediate superior, including the department head, would be charged, he said.

In November 2001, a staffer of the office of Senator Ralph Recto was found to be using illegal substances after he left an eyeglass case containing six grams of shabu and a stick of marijuana in the Senate gallery.

Another staff member of Recto identified the owner of the eyeglass case as Jonas Jeffrey Roy, grandson of the late Sen. Jose Roy.

Recto supposedly did not have any knowledge of Roy's drug use and immediately had himself tested for illegal drugs. He had also called on his staff to take drug tests or face termination. Recto's test came back negative and so did the tests on his staff. Roy did not take the test; he resigned after Recto told his staff to take drug tests.

Aglipay said his task force would be fighting the drug menace on two fronts: supply side and demand aspect.

To minimize the demand for prohibited substances, the group would try to clear all barangay units nationwide of illegal drug users and sellers, Aglipay said.

He said the Special Operations Group and other key units of the Philippine National Police would try to cut off sources of illegal drugs by going after big-time suppliers such as the Hong Kong Triad.

Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane has ordered Aglipay's team to clean up first the police hierarchy before implementing the ambitious drive on a full scale, he said.

But he asked the public to report any illegal drug activity to the PNP text hotline 2920 or directly to his mobile phone number: 0917-8131310.

Frogmen now back to search for Randy

By Agnes Donato

TWO weeks into the search for the body of Randy Diaz, the Manila Water Co. Inc. is not about to give up, according to an official of the water firm.

Manila Water corporate communications director Joel Lacsamana yesterday said that frogmen from the Philippine Coast Guard have now swum about a third of the three-kilometer main pipeline where the body of Diaz, 19, is believed to have been lodged by strong water currents.

"We still have a little bit more than two kilometers to go. We will not stop until we have searched the entire 1525-mm diameter mainline," he said.

The divers have already plunged into one of the two creek-crossings in Cubao, Lacsamana added.

Frogmen started diving last May 23 into the ventilation chamber on Bignay Street in Project 2, where Diaz had fallen on May 17 while he was picking mango and *santol* fruits from the backyard of his relative's house.

Lacsamana also said Manila Water is using water cameras to view the pipeline.

He also said that distribution of water is back to normal in all but one barangay in Quezon City.

Water supply interruption is now being experienced only in Barangay Kalusugan, after Manila Water succeeded in interconnecting pipes to supply water in Barangays Kristong Hari and Pinagkaisahan, Lacsamana said.

But results of a Department of Health analysis on a body part that supposedly came out of a faucet in a Mandaluyong home last week have yet to be released.

LATE SPORTS

Governors triumph in PBA All-Star

By June Navarro

KENNETH Duremdes beat the clock with an arching lay-up as the Governors' selection frustrated the Commissioner's group, 124-122, last night in the PBA All-Star game at the Araneta Coliseum.

Duremdes completed the fast-break play after getting an open pass from Vergel Meneses, who captured his fourth All-Star Most Valuable Player award.

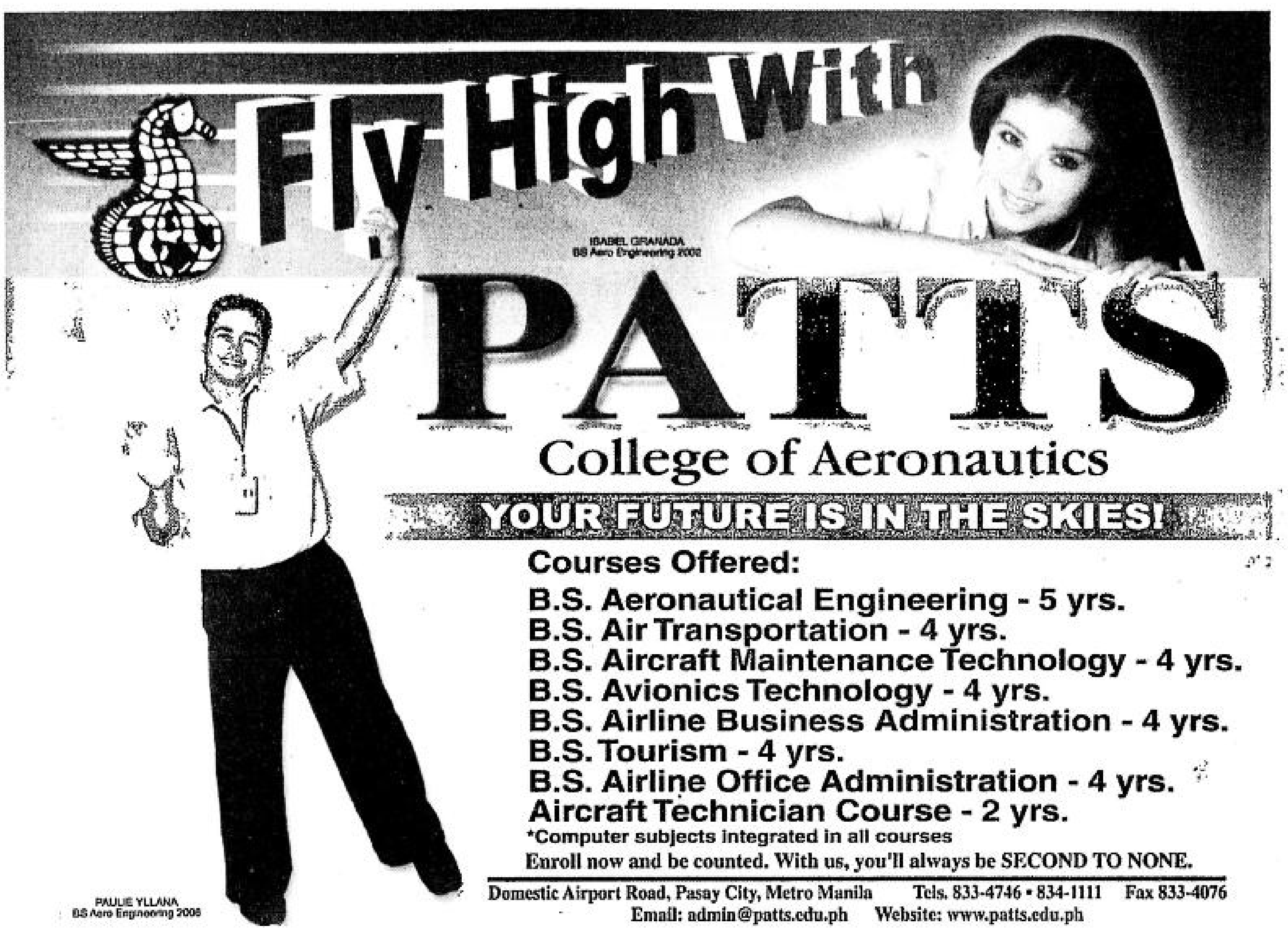
Meanwhile, the All-Star side events turned out to be an all-rookie show after five first-year players prevailed in all categories of the skills competition.

Brandon Cablay of Alaska dethroned back-to-back slam dunk king Joey Mente of San Miguel Beer after scoring a perfect 50 in his final dunk, a reverse windmill.

Talk N Text playmaker Jimmy Alapag bested veterans Olsen Racela of San Miguel Beer and Renren Ritualo of FedEx in the three-point shoot-out while Rob Johnson, also of Ginebra, won the obstacle challenge.

In the two-ball competition, Barangay Ginebra's Aris Dimaunahan and Sunday Salvacion edged Danny Ildefonso and Dondon Hontiveros of San Miguel Beer, 67-66.

More Sports on A25-A32



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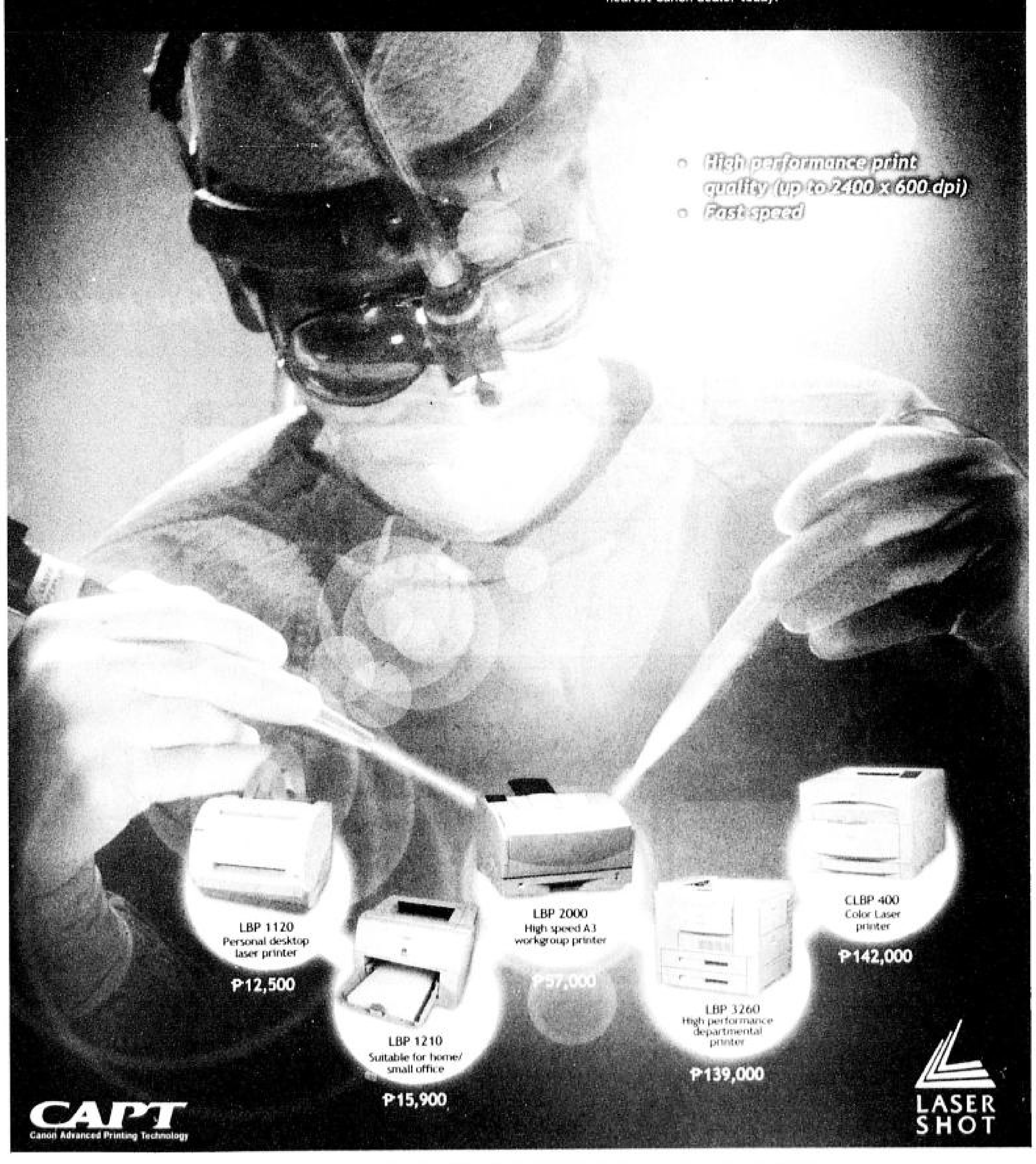
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Nokia 7250	-	11,400	5,800	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6610	9,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6610 (w/ camera & headset)	-	8,000	3,000	FREE	FREE
Nokia 7210	-	8,500	3,000	FREE	FREE
Nokia 7210 (w/ camera & headset)	-	11,800	6,000	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6100	-	9,000	4,000	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6100 (w/ camera & headset)	-	13,800	8,800	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson T310	-	2,500	FREE	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson T310 (w/ camera)	-	3,500	FREE	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson P800	-	23,200	17,500	10,000	3,500

Plans 500 and 600 are also available for these handsets. Please inquire about handset prices at the SMART Wireless Center/TSI outlet nearest you. Packages for switchers are also available.

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Robinsons Place Manila	Up to June 1
Podium	Up to June 30

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CAGAYAN DE ORO	
Gaisano Mall	May 31 - June 5
Corso Guerlani	May 31, June 6-7
Xcite	May 31, June 6-7
DAVAO:	
Gaisano Mall	May 31
The Venue	May 31, June 6-7
CEBU:	
Ayala Center Cebu c/o Audionet	May 31
Vudu Lounge	May 31
BACOLOD	
Robinsons	May 31

Note;
1. The Monthly Service Fee (MSF) is inclusive of VAT & FCA (Foreign Currency Adjustment).
2. Free Minute allocation will cover calls made from Addict Mobile to SMART, Addict Mobile to other GSM operators and Addict Mobile to non-NDD landline.
3. Free Text allocation will cover text messages sent to Addict Mobile cellphones, SMART cellphones, Talk 'N Text cellphones and other local networks.
4. All plans are covered by a 24-month contract. Pre-termination fees apply.
5. For new subscribers and switchers, bring the ff requirements (Original copy preferred):
   - Valid ID (Driver's License, Company ID, Passport, PRC ID, Major Credit Card w/ Photo, etc.)
   - Proof of Billing Address (Latest Billing Statement e.g. Utility Bills, Credit Card Bills or Cable Subscription Bills, etc.)
   - Financial Documents (Latest copy of any of the ff: ITR, Bank Statement or Certification)
   - For switchers: Last 2 months' non-SMART billing statement.

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Monthly Service Fee	P500	P600	P800	P1,335	P1,995	P2,665	P3,500
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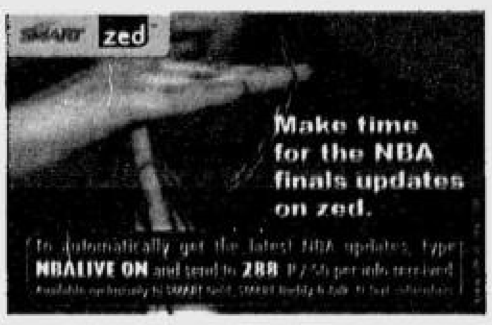
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Drugs, NBN top PBA board agenda

By June Navarro

THE NASTY drug issue and the sticky TV franchise case will top the agenda when PBA Board of Governors sits on a "house-cleaning" monthly meeting today.

The appeal lodged by teams whose players were implicated in a drug scandal and the review of the rules and guidelines on the league's drug-testing program are bound to keep the all-powerful board on its feet.

A league insider said the board is likely to approve a re-test of the urine samples, hinting

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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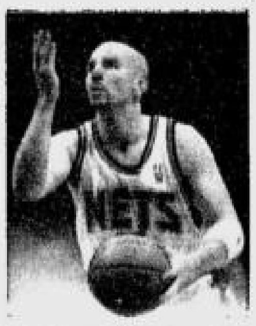

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Annika sets pace
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CALTEX "WIN WHEELS BABY, WIN!"

Promo Mechanics:
1. For a minimum single receipt purchase of any of the following Caltex products, you get one (1) game card:P300 worth of fuels (Vortex Gold, Vortex Silver, Regular, Power Diesel & Kerosene); P75 worth of items at Star Mart; P75 worth of Lubricants; P250 worth of LPG

How to win:
Instant Prize:
a. Scratch off the three (3) big boxes to reveal the following Unilever and Caltex products: Cream Silk logo (three 10mL. sachets); Caltex fuel (P100.00 worth); Caltex fuel (P50.00 worth); Caltex (P10.00 worth); Caltex Lubricant (P20.00 worth)
b. If the three (3) big boxes reveal the same items, you win the prize indicated on the card.
c. Instant prizes can be claimed at any participating Caltex station from Monday-Friday, from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, upon surrender of the winning game-card.
d. Instant prizes are not convertible to cash.
e. The P20 Caltex Lubricant instant prize cannot be used to redeem 200mL., Caltex Revtex 250, Caltex 2T oil and battery water.
f. Game cards are subject to validation by the authorized Caltex station representative. Only winning cards with authenticated security code will be honored. Crumpled, defaced, torn or with scratched security code game cards ("void if scratched" box) will be disqualified.
g. Instant prizes may be claimed until 60 days from the end of the promo or until November 26, 2003. All unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of Caltex (Philippines) Inc. with prior approval of DTI.

Raffle:
a. Fill-out the raffle coupon. Indicate your name, address, tel. no., and/or cell no. and affix your signature on the raffle stub.
b. Drop entries in drop boxes located at any participating Caltex station.

Monthly Raffle:
a. There will be three (3) monthly draws: four (4) major prize winners and 40 consolation prize winners to be drawn in each monthly draw.
b. Entries will be clustered into four (4) groups: GMA, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.
c. Allocation of prizes per area are as following:
- Major Prize Winners: one (1) will be picked from GMA, one (1) from Luzon, one (1) from Visayas and one (1) from Mindanao. Consolation Prize Winners: two (2) will be picked from GMA Pasig, Mandaluyong, Pateros, Marikina, Rizal, Manila, San Juan, Makati, Pasay City, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela; two (2) from North Luzon (Ilocos, Mt. Province, Abra, La Union, Benguet, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Ifugao, Isabela, Quirino, Kalinga Apayao, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Aurora, Pampanga, Tarlac, Bataan, Zambales, Bulacan, two (2) from South Luzon (Batangas, Cavite, Mindoro, Laguna, Quezon, Palawan and Marinduque); two (2) from Visayas & two (2) from Mindanao.
d. The major prize winners will be announced over Caltex's "Win Wheels Baby, Win!" segment in EAT BULAGA, GMA 7's noontime TV show and will be notified through registered mail and telephone.
e. The major prize winners wins a cash prize of TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) and will be treated to four days and three nights accomomodation for two at a hotel in Manila, with land, sea or air transport and dining privileges. Additional trip prize package is transferable, but is not convertible to cash.
f. Consolation prize winners in P5,000.00 cash.
g. Only winning entries with the authenticated security code will be honored.
h. Non-winning entries in each monthly draw will no longer be included in the succeeding monthly draws but will be qualified for the grand draw.
i. The major prize winners will also play in Caltex's "Win Wheels Baby, Win!" Segment within EAT BULAGA, GMA 7's noontime TV show. He/She has the option to let another person play in his/her place, provided a written agreement is submitted to Caltex prior to the "Win Wheels Baby, Win!" game proper.
j. Before the Win Wheels Baby, Win! game proper the major prize winners will also be interviewed by the network to determine his/her interests and profile. Thereafter, a fitting "Win Wheels Baby, Win!" game mechanics, questions and challenges will be tailor-fit based on information secured.
k. The major prize winners will also be asked to accomplish a waiver stipulating that they are in good health, condition to participate in any game challenge he/she is tasked to accomplish.
l. Agreements on any winnings will be between the major prize winner and the authorized person to play in the game which will be indicated in the agreement with the authorized player to be submitted to Caltex. In case there are no specific instructions in the agreement regarding in sharing of any winnings, the prize will be awarded to the authorized player

Schedule of raffle draws and game:

Period Covered	Deadline of Submission	Draw Dates	Schedule of "Win Wheels Baby, Win"
1st Draw: May 26 to June 29	June 29	July 9	July 18, 25, Aug. 01, 08
2nd Draw: June 30 to July 27	July 27	Aug. 6	Aug. 15, 22, 29, Sept. 5
3rd Draw: July 28 to Aug. 24	Aug. 24	Sept. 3	Sept. 12, 19, 26, Oct. 3

Game Mechanics:
- In the game proper, contestant will be presented with Seven (7) Caltex brands' logos - Caltex, Vortex, Power Diesel, Star Mart, Star Card, LPG, and Caltex Delo.
- All seven (7) boxes contain different number of keys ranging from one (1) to three (3). To wit:

1 Box	- 3 keys
3 Boxes	- 2 keys
3 Boxes	- 1 key

- Contestant will choose three(3) boxes. Inside the boxes are questions or challenges that the contestant must do to earn the money and the number of chances to pick from a bowl of keys
- Contestant will then position the boxes in the P20,000; P35,000; and the P50,000 slots
- Contestant earns the cash and the number of chances to pick from a bowl of keys, if he answers the questions or is able to do the challenge. If the contestant is not able to answer any of the three questions or challenges, the contestant receives P10,000 consolation prize, plus one (1) chance to pick from a bowl of keys.
- For the jackpot round, contestant picks from a bowl of fifty(50) keys. The number of times that he/she will draw were already discussed in the former provisions.
- Only one (1) of the fifty(50) keys is the key to the jackpot prize.
- Contestant tries his/her luck to start the engine of the jackpot prize.
- Should it start, contestant drives home the Brand New Mitsubishi Adventure GLS Sport!

Grand Raffle:
a. There will be one (1) Grand Draw to be held at the end of the 12-week "Win Wheels Baby, Win!" at EAT BULAGA.
b. The grand draw will simply be a showcase of the drawing of winners and culled from the entries received within the promo period. All non-winning entries on the monthly draws plus entries submitted from September 1 to 26, 2003 will be segregated into GMA, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao for the grand draw.
c. Entries will be clustered into three (3) groups: GMA and Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.
d. Prizes at stake include:
- Seven (7) brand new Mitsubishi Adventure Super Sport
- Fifty (50) winners of P5,000 each
e. Allocation of winners per area are as following:
- Adventure: three (3) will be picked from Luzon (includes GMA, North & South Luzon), two (2) from Visayas and two (2) from Mindanao
- P5,000.00 Cash: thirty (30) will be picked from Luzon (includes GMA, North & South Luzon, ten (10) from Visayas and ten (10) from Mindanao
f. Drawn winners will be notified through registered mail and telephone.
h. Schedule of the grand draw is:

Period Covered	Deadline submission of Entries	Draw Date
May 26, 2003 to September 26, 2003	September 26, 2003	October 10, 2003

2. Customer can only win one weekly prize during the promo period and can only win once in the grand draw. In case the winner gets drawn again on the same draw date, he/she gets the bigger prize.
3. Prizes, can be claimed upon presentation of one (1) proper identification (i.e.: driver's license, passport, etc.) and notification letter.
4. Prizes may be claimed at 7/F 6750 Ayala Ave., 1226 Makati City Philippines from Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm only. Consolation prizes can be claimed at the nearest Caltex station specified in the registered notice.
5. Prizes can be claimed within 60 days of notification. All prizes unclaimed will be forfeited in favor of Caltex (Philippines) Inc. with prior approval of DTI
6. Caltex shall shoulder the 20% tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.00
7. Employees of Caltex (Philippines) Inc., participating Caltex stations, Caltex lubricant distributors, LPG dealers, affiliated Advertising Agencies, Caltex promotions and partner agencies, suppliers and all their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle promo
8. Promo period is from May 26, 2003 to September 26, 2003

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WIN WHEELS BABY, WIN!

Promo Period: May 26 to September 26, 2003
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0341, Series of 2003.

What Drives You CALTEX

Army pugs dethrone Navy with 5 golds

By Dennis U. Eroa

PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan—Army beat Navy in two of their three title bouts and went on to wrest the overall championship with five gold medals at the close of the National Open amateur boxing championships Saturday night at the Puerto Princesa Coliseum here.

Navy, which topped last year's event in Iriga City, actually lost its first three bouts for the gold medal but won the next three to finish second overall

"We came here to fulfill a mission and accomplished it," said Army coach and 1990 Beijing Asian Games gold medalist Roberto Jalnaiz.

Pinweight Bill Vicera and lightflyweight Godfrey Castro, adjudged as the tournament's best male boxer, started Army's onslaught by downing Navymen Albert Pabila (98-87) and Franklin Pabila (92-63), respectively.

Glenn Gonzales of Cotabato Province further sank Navy's hopes by outpointing Arestio Gorra, 108-84, in the flyweight finals.

Navy finally snapped its string of losses when Joan Tipon edged Army's Michael Pareñas for the bantamweight gold. And Joeden Ladon downed teammate Edchell Tering for Navy's second gold in the featherweight class.

The stylish Roel Laguna, a veteran internationalist, outboxed Caesar Amonsot of Cebu City, 101-55, in the lightweight finals for Navy's third gold.

But the Armymen were not to be denied as they won the next three bouts through light welterweight Mark Jason Melligen, Francis Joven and Asian Games veteren Maraon Golez.

The 18-year-old Melligen, a member of the Philippine youth team, battered Neil Postolero of the Air Force to win by RSC in the third round.

The power-punching Francis Joven dashed the hopes of Puerto Princesa to win its first gold when he knocked out David Dalope in the first round while

Golez beat Maximo Tabangcora in an all-Army middleweight clash.

Jalnaiz's charges also finished with two silver medals. Navy wound up with four silvers and two bronzes.

Baguio City won three golds in the women's division courtesy of feathwerweight Jouvillet Chillem, lightflyweight Ronijin Sufla and flyweight Alice Aparri.

Chillem outpointed Joaren de la Rosa of Arena Fitness Gym, 57-46; Sufla won by RSC in the first round over Mandaluyong's Janice Gernace and Aparri pummeled Mary Grace Tipon of Arena, 62-24.

The other winners were Arena's Analiza Cruz and South Cotabato's Annie Albania.

Palawan's Josie Gabuco, winner of the women's pinweight gold Friday, was adjudged the best female boxer.

Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes, Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn and Abap president Manny Lopez awarded the trophies and medals to the winners.

FLYWEIGHT Analiza Cruz (right) delivers a left to the face of local girl Elena Laborte in the finals of the NationalOpen amateur boxing championships in Puerto Princesa. Cruz won the gold. ROMY HOMILLADA

Drugs, NBN top PBA board agenda

From page A25

that DNA testing may be conducted to make sure that the samples really came from the players concerned.

Money matters, however, will also be on the priority list as the governors try to resolve the PBA's television woes with NBN-4.

NBN-4 reportedly has been pulling strings the past few weeks after the letter of credit (LC) it issued to the league was canceled by Manila Bank.

Sources said the government television network failed to comply with a few banking requirements, thereby forcing Manila Bank to cancel NBN-4's letter of credit.

The LC guarantees payment to the PBA even if NBN-4 abandons its commitment to pay the league at least P200 million in television money for the entire 2003 season. NBN-4 secured the exclusive television rights of the PBA for three years (2003-2005) worth P670 million.

Although NBN-4 has been religiously paying its monthly dues to the PBA even on a delayed basis, paranoia struck the league after the Manila Bank-issued LC has lost its monetary power.

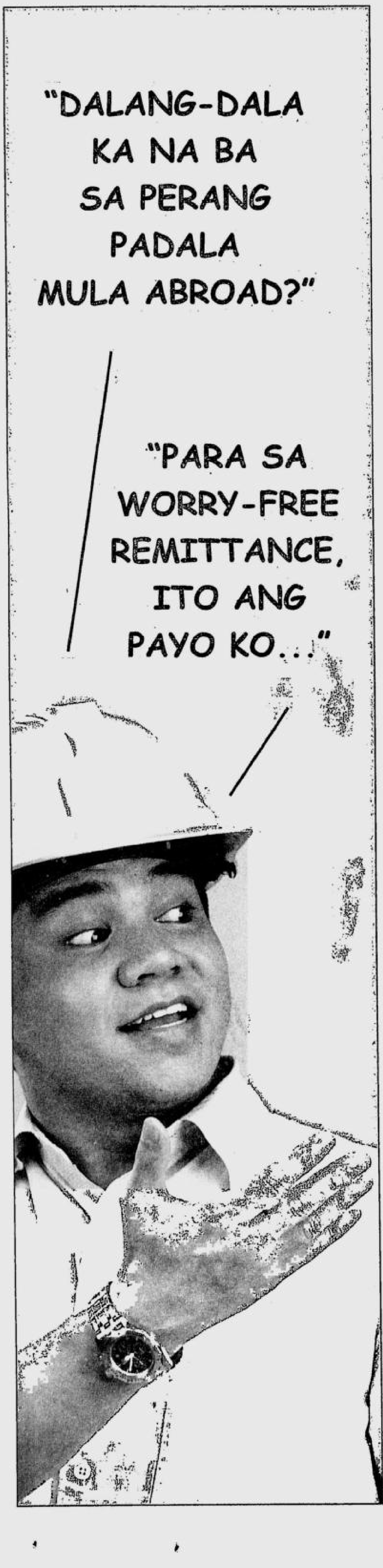
"Now, what assurance does the PBA have that NBN will continue to pay despite the LC being canceled? NBN has been paying its dues all right but once NBN stops on its commitment, the PBA has no guarantee that it will be paid," said a league top honcho who requested anonymity.

One of the options, the source said, would be to rescind the three-year, P670-million contract of NBN and put up an in-house television coverage for the PBA.

"We will just get people who could help us out, organize our own team and buy airtime from a television station," he added.

The PBA board has pegged June 4 as the deadline for NBN-4 to come up with a new LC from a bank that has a solid financial background. Otherwise, the board would be obliged to study the viability of its "in-house television coverage" option and implement the solution as soon as possible.

Another matter to be served on the table is the contract dispute between Air21-FedEx and Rene "Bong" Hawkins.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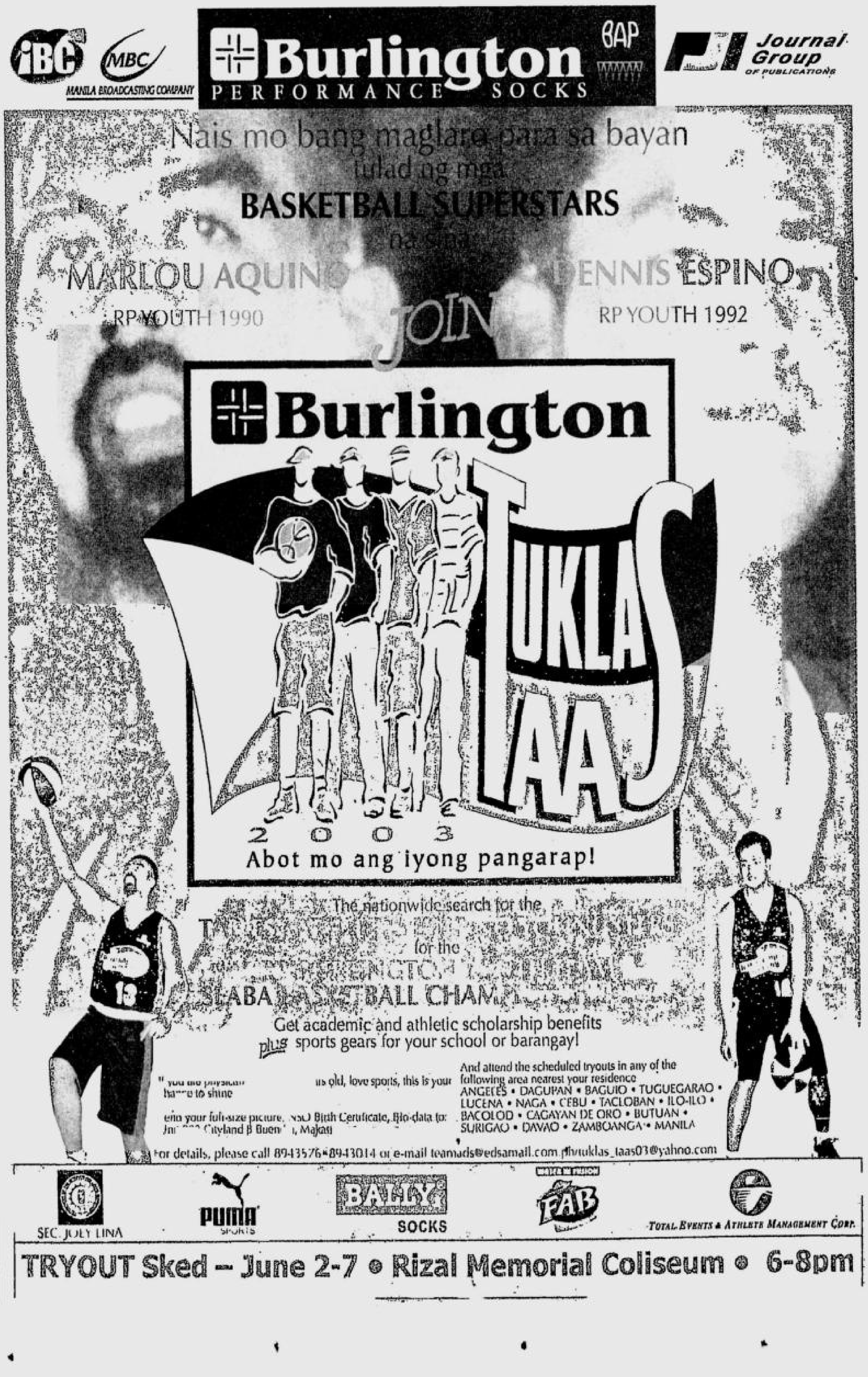
"PARA SA WORRY-FREE REMITTANCE, ITO ANG PAYO KO..."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Manila Golf scrambles past Mimosa

By Jong Arcano

OV Espiritu and Joey Yujuico rallied from four strokes down to salvage a tie in the aggregate format and clinch a 2.5-1.5 victory for defending champion Manila Golf Club against dangerous Mimosa in the Federation Golf League matches in various venues over the weekend.

Already assured of a tie after the pairs of JP Reyes-Brian Chua (bestball) and Jojo Guingona-Dennis Valdes (scramble) disposed of their rivals, Espiritu and Yujuico made up for the loss of Dondo Litonjua-Tony Olbes in high-low with the decisive draw.

The Forbes Park golfers notched their second straight win after debuting with a mighty conquest of Southwoods, taking solo leadership in Group I.

Over in San Rafael, Bulacan, Royal Northwoods doused cold water on hot-starting Mt. Malarayat with a 2.5-1.5 victory in Group III.

Canlubang defeated neighbor Sta. Elena, 3-1, also in another Group.

Hottest team

Malarayat went into the match as the league's hottest team, scoring a rousing 3.5-.5 win over Riviera, to boost the Lipa-based squad zooming ahead in their division with six points including two bonus markers.

Northwoods, meanwhile, got a big lift from a win over Sherwood Hills due to the eligibility ruling against Juami Rocha who was fielded despite his not being in the official roster. The 2-2 draw turned into a 3-1 win for Northwoods.

Malarayat's aggregate tandem of Katy Katigbak-Pitong Quiocho averted an embarrassing sweep by edging the Dionisio Juan-Peregrin de Guzman partnership.

Northwoods now has five points, just one behind Malarayat, counting an earlier draw with Sta. Elena.

Kim Chang Hoi-Sunny Donato (bestball) and Omar Dungca-Tony Pancho (scramble) won their matches while Rodel Mangulabnan-Boy Unson salvaged a half point for Northwoods.

Most of the week's schedule were postponed due to the persistent rains just days after typhoon Chedeng wrought havoc on the local golf calendar.

David leads MVP race

HARD Work has paid off for Gary David.

The 6-foot-3 forward of Montaña Pawnshop is now the pacesetter in the Most Valuable Player race of the Sunkist-PBL 2003 Unity Cup.

A prize find from Lyceum, David, a native of Dinalupihan, Bataan, accumulated 492 statistical points after collecting 297 points on statistics and 195 points on won games, outstripping erstwhile leader Ranidel Ocampo.

David is currently the league's top scorer with a 19.5 average, fifth from the field with a 58-percent conversion rate (66-of-114) and is hauling down 5.2 rebounds per game.

De Ocampo slipped to second with 481 SPs and his MVP bid is further jeopardized by John-O's five-game semifinal setback.

Tailing David and De Ocampo are Hapee Toothpaste stars Peter Jun Simon, Allan Salangsang and Rich Alvarez.

6-foot standout

Simon, a 6-foot standout from North Cotabato who played for the Davao Eagles in the defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association, is third overall with 443 SPs. He's third in scoring with 14.2 points and sixth in freethrow accuracy with an 82-percent clip, sinking 41 of 50 attempts.

The 6-foot-5 Salangsang, formerly of the Letran Knights, is fourth overall with 431 SPs, averaging 9.4 points and 5.2 rebounds while the 6-foot-4 Alvarez, an Ateneo stalwart, is fifth with 421 SPs and third in rebounds with 9.3.

Viva's Jason Misolas is sixth with 419, Montana's Jon Dan Salvador and John-O's Ricky Calimag are tied at seventh with 413 while Montaña's Topex Robinson and Viva's Francis Gerard Jones wrap up the top 10 contenders with 411 and 409, respectively.

Aiming to break into the magic circle are Hapee's Wesley Gonzales (387 SPs), Viva's Dennis Miranda (385), John-O's Celino Cruz (384) and Mark Macapagal (382) and Montana's Marlon Basco (380).

Other achievers are Nutri-licious' Nelbert Omolon, who's No. 1 in shot blocks with 1.9 per game, and his teammate Chico Lanete, who tops the steals department with 2.3 per game. Montaña's Topex Robinson is the assist leader with 6.5 per game while Welcoat's Jean Marc Pingris is top rebounder with 10 boards an outing.

LBC-Batangas' Joe Dominguez is No. 1 from the arc with a 45-percent conversion (21 of 47 attempts), while Montaña's Dondon Mendoza is the best from the field, sinking 27 of 43 attempts or 63 percent. ICTSI's Bruce Dacia tops the freethrow department with an 89-percent clip, canning 17 of 19 attempts.

Heart, guts in game of the year

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THEY played the PBA game of the year way, way ahead of schedule.

Nobody had expected it.

In fact, the Crispa-Toyota reunion match was originally conceived as an appetizer, a so-so rematch to raise the curtains for the All-Star weekend.

Whoever altered the Friday night script at the Big Dome, and turned the appetizer into the main event, must be having the biggest laugh of his life.

***

Nobody, indeed, could be happier than the faithful fans of the Big J.

The reporter was right.

Not even Robert Jaworski, who drilled in the game's most scintillating basket, had ever expected such a fantastic ending.

How Jaworski, who confessed in a pregame talk he was nothing more than 15 (yes fifteen) percent of his old self, again became the neighborhood topic the morning after, is a tribute to the guy's tenacity.

OK, he walked in as though he had a baby lifesaver under his yellow jersey. He had also lost the handsome muscles on his biceps.

He did not see action all of the first half. He was nowhere on the game floor at the start of the second period, thereby fueling fears he might just sit it out the whole evening.

Who knows, maybe the Big J himself finally agreed to join action midway in the third quarter ready and willing to laugh at himself?

***

But it was not to be so.

Guts and heart again became the theme of the match once the Big J took over, pushing the ball, quick, around to proper recipients.

Jaworski provided singular leadership, a stinging contrast to the Redmanizers who got scattered trying to win all by themselves.

Then came the magical moment, with Mon Fernandez bouncing an assist to Jaworski, perfectly free from top of the key hole.

***

He did shoot another game winner, but that triple by Jaworski could, in a big way, turn into another sure shot for his expected re-election bid as a senator.

Why? Well, there's no debating that, after the Friday heroics, Jaworski has rekindled his love affair with the basketball republic.

Of course, the first Crispa-Toyota rematch in nearly two decades was also a rekindling of both love and hate.

***

Terry Saldana, reunion game MVP, provided the nasty fireworks when he likened the Redmanizers to slum area cagers. (*"Para silang mga* squatters, *hawak nang hawak at tulak nang tulak."*)

Of course, before that uncalled for valedictory, the Crispa-Toyota game had itself been threatened by on-court violence. And to think that they were fighting it out on the same floor where they rumbled in the early years of the PBA and even landed straight at Camp Crame.

Yes, there seemed nothing much at stake at the start.

But after the stinging loss as they finished second best, the Redmanizers could only groan and cry: Rematch.

***

On the whole, the game among the legendary oldies felt very, very good.

It won't indeed be an exaggeration to say that the Friday event was the revival of a forgotten faith.

Old fans, maybe slower now on their feet, did not only come to watch the reunion game.

They rushed in to worship in the old mecca.

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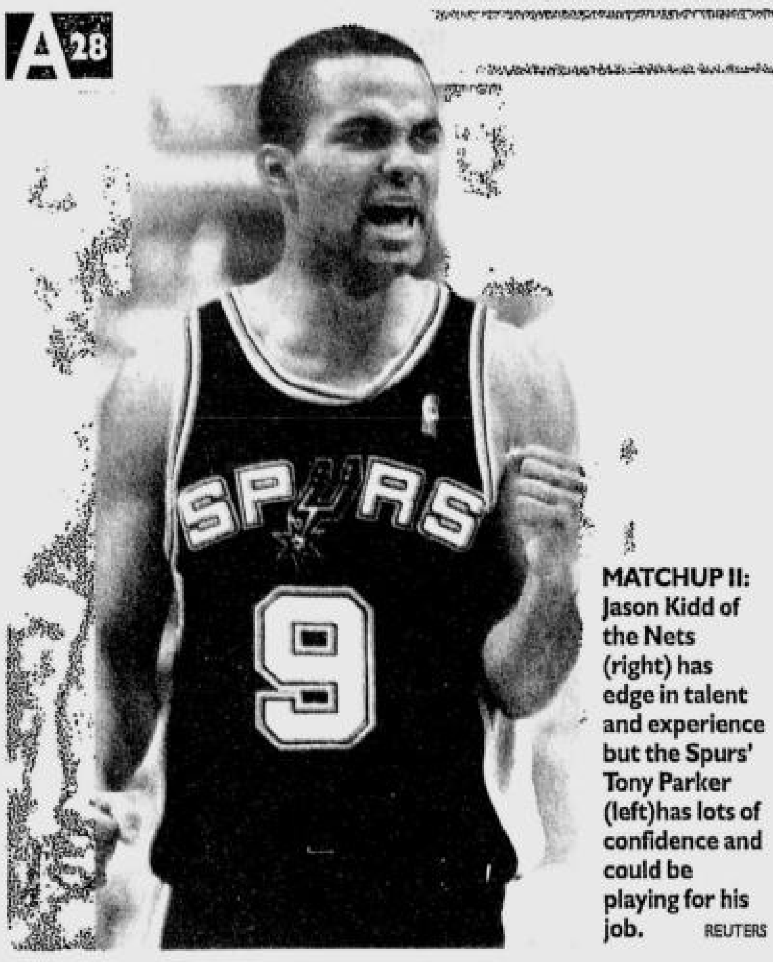
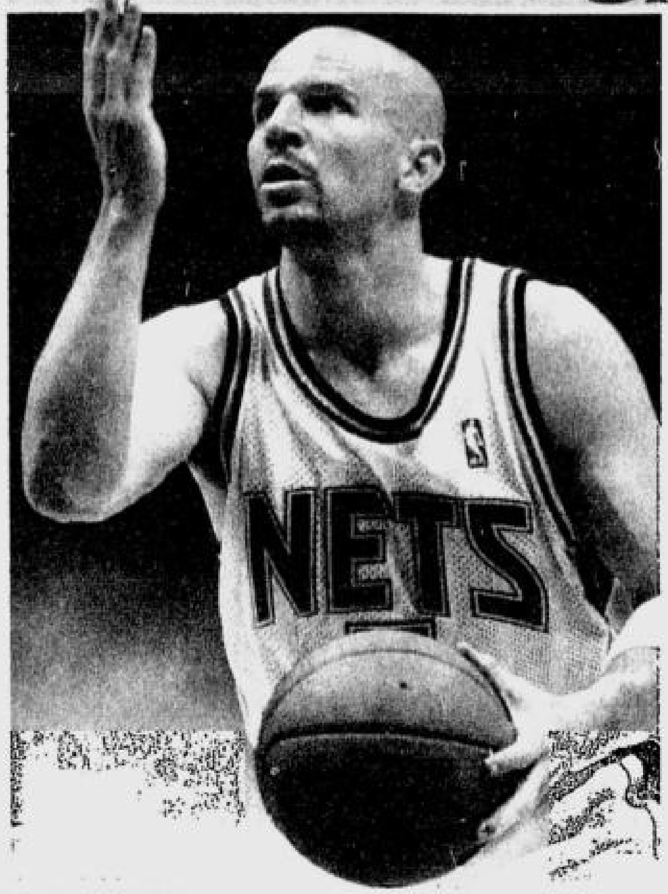
Fearless forecast: Nets in 7





MATCHUP II: Jason Kidd of the Nets (right) has edge in talent and experience but the Spurs' Tony Parker (left)has lots of confidence and could be playing for his job. REUTERS

NEW YORK — A capsule look at the NBA Finals between the San Antonio Spurs and the New Jersey Nets: SAN ANTONIO SPURS (60-22, 12-6) vs. NEW JERSEY NETS (49-33, 12-2):

Starters — Spurs: C David Robinson (6.8 pts, 6.4 reb), F Tim Duncan (24.9 pts, 14.8 reb, 5.3 ast), F Bruce Bowen (8.1 pts. 2.8 reb), G Stephen Jackson (13.6 pts, 4.1 reb), G Tony Parker (14.9 pts, 3.3 ast). Nets: C Jason Collins (6.8 pts, 6.9 reb), F Kenyon Martin (20.7 pts, 9.1 reb), F Richard Jefferson (14.4 pts, 6.3 reb), G Kerry Kittles (10.8 pts, 3.2 reb), G Jason Kidd (20.3 pts, 8.4 reb, 8.3 ast).

Key reserves — Spurs: F Malik Rose (24.1 min, 9.8 pts, 6.4 reb), G Manu Ginobili (27.1 min, 9.7 pts, 3.6 reb). Nets: F Aaron Williams (19.2 min, 6.8 pts, 4.7 reb), G Lucious Harris (22.1 min, 8.3 pts), F Rodney Rogers (19.7 min, 7.6 pts, 3.3 reb).

Season series: Tied 1-1, each team winning at home. San Antonio won 92-78 on March 6 as Parker (21 points, 10 in the fourth quarter) outplayed Kidd (4-for-19). Duncan had 21 points and 21 rebounds, and Ginobili had 18 points, seven assists and five steals. New Jersey won 91-82 on Nov. 13, with Harris scoring 12 points in the fourth quarter to break open a close game. Jefferson scored 27, and Kidd had 18 points, eight rebounds, eight assists and eight turnovers.

Storyline: A toss-up series despite San Antonio being favored, one that should be determined in large part by New Jersey's ability to get out in the open court and run the fast break. San Antonio is seeking its second NBA championship; the Nets haven't won a title since they were in the ABA.

Key matchup I: Duncan vs. Martin. The Nets will occasionally send a second defender to help, but Martin will try to handle him one-on-one most of the time. Duncan was a matchup nightmare for the Suns, Lakers and Mavericks in the first three rounds, and Martin caused all sorts of problems for the Bucks, Celtics and Pistons.

Key matchup II: Parker vs. Kidd. The edge in talent and experience goes to Kidd, but Parker has lots of confidence for a 21-year-old and has played some of his best games when provided with extra motivation. With the Spurs possibly targeting Kidd as a free agent this summer, Parker will have it: He could be playing for his job.

Weaknesses: The Spurs are a poor free throw-shooting team and have been prone to blowing big leads–especially in fourth quarters. The Nets will have a size disadvantage that will give San Antonio more opportunities for second-chance points.

Little-known fact: The last time these teams met in the playoffs was Game 7 of the ABA semifinals on April 24, 1976. The next day, Duncan was born.

Prediction: Nets in 7.

NBA FINALS 2003

San Antonio vs New Jersey

Spurs 0, Nets 0

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Game 2 at San Antonio (June 7, 8 a.m.)
Game 3 at New Jersey (June 9, 8 a.m.)
Game 4 at New Jersey (June 12, 8 a.m.)
*Game 5 at New Jersey (June 14, 8 a.m.)
*Game 6 at San Antonio (June 16, 8 a.m.)
*Game 7 at San Antonio (June 19, 8 a.m.)

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MATCHUP I: Martin (right) has the respect of Duncan (left) who expects man-to-man coverage from the New Jersey defender.

REUTERS

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Duncan wary of Martin

SAN ANTONIO—Tim Duncan doesn't expect to see a lot of crazy defensive schemes from the New Jersey Nets.

Instead, he expects mostly man-to-man coverage from a player–Kenyon Martin–who has Duncan's respect as one of the best defensive big men in the NBA.

"Kenyon is right up there with them. He's got quick feet, his hands are active," Duncan said Saturday. "If there was to be one guy (who defends him best), he would be right up them with them."

The Duncan-Martin matchup will be one of the keys to the NBA Finals, which will begin Wednesday night. Martin is the Nets' best rebounder and second-leading scorer, but it's his defense that makes him such a special player.

Martin was able to shut down Boston's Antoine Walker in the second round when New Jersey swept the Celtics, and he more than neutralized Detroit's Ben Wallace in the Eastern Conference finals.

Duncan said he has already reviewed the tapes of New Jersey's two regular-season games against the Spurs, which the teams split. He said the Nets often sent a second defender only halfway over toward him when he received the ball off an entry pass, placing weakside defenders in the passing lanes to try to come up with steals.

"He's really become quite the master at understanding how he's being played," said Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, who expects Martin to be physical with Duncan and try to move him as far away from the basket as possible.

Popovich also predicted that Martin will keep Duncan guessing by playing in front of him, next to him or behind him on different possessions.

The Spurs had another day off Saturday but planned to resume practice Sunday morning. The Nets, meanwhile, were back on the court in East Rutherford, New Jersey, trying to stay sharp during their 10-day layoff between games.

Coach Byron Scott said the Spurs present a different type of challenge than the Nets' previous postseason opponents.

"Milwaukee was a perimeter team and so was Boston. Detroit's inside game was smaller guys, smaller guys we could match up with. Right now, we have to match up against a guy who is going to have an inch or two on everybody who guards him, and they spread the floor out pretty well," Scott said.

Duncan, speaking on a conference call, noted that the Spurs' previous three opponents provided perfect preparation for the Nets and their style of play.

The Phoenix Suns were similar because of their scrappiness and the fact that their offense revolved around a point guard, Stephon Marbury. The Lakers ran a system–the triangle offense–that is similar to New Jersey's motion offense, and the Dallas Mavericks employed a helter-skelter system that in some ways resembles what the Nets will try to do.

"I don't know if we could have had three better series to get us ready for New Jersey," Duncan said.

One of the other key matchups will be at point guard, where the Nets' Jason Kidd is matched against 21-year-old Tony Parker.

Popovich said there will be times when he will use small forward Bruce Bowen as the primary defender on Kidd, which would likely lead to Parker defending shooting guard Kerry Kittles and Stephen Jackson being matched against small forward Richard Jefferson. *AP*

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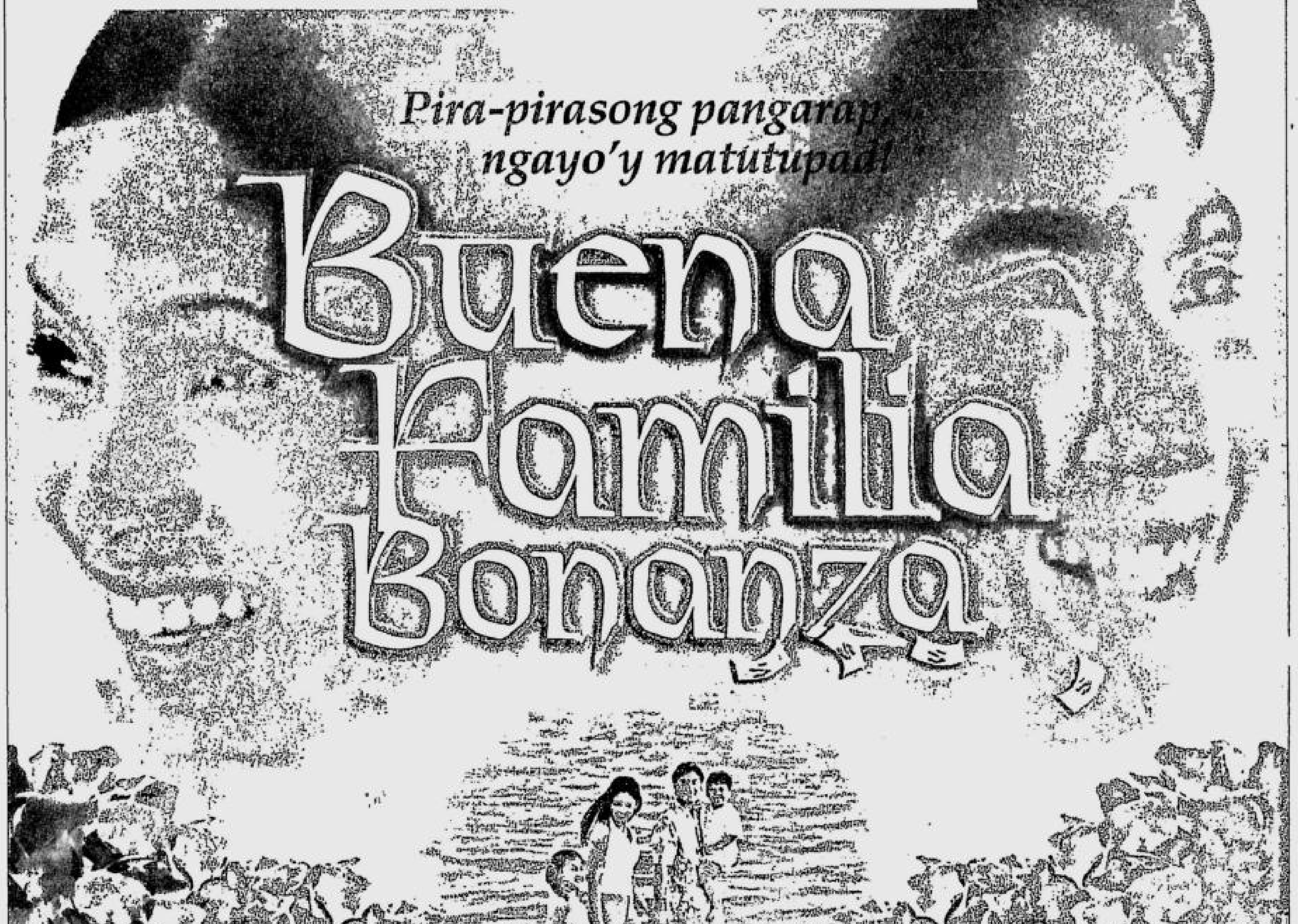

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9. *Draws will be televised over a popular noontime TV variety show: "Eat Bulaga". Winners' names will be announced via print ads and will be notified by registered mail as to where they can claim the prize. Prizes can be claimed within 60 days from notification. GMA winners can claim their prize at the Western Union Country Office, 38 Floor PhilamLife Bldg., Paseo De Roxas, Makati City at telephone number: 8140527. For provincial winners, prizes can be claimed at the nearest Promo Edge Corporation office specified in the registered notice. Prizes not claimed within the given period will be forfeited in favor of Western Union with prior approval of DTI.*
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Again, Costa wins in 5 sets; Hewitt exits

PARIS—More than 4 1/2 hours into his third five-set victory at the French Open, Albert Costa leaned over the net, head down, tongue hanging. The defending champion appeared to be peering into a well, searching for drops of energy.

At the other end of Roland Garros, top-ranked Lleyton Hewitt screamed at himself, trying to get back into a groove as a big lead slipped away in his own marathon.

There's a special skill to grinding out long matches on clay, one that Costa suddenly has acquired, Hewitt still lacks–and the top women don't seem to need.

A week ago, Costa's 10-year record didn't include a single comeback from a two-set deficit. Now he's done it twice: in the first round and against unseeded Nicolas Lapentti of Ecuador in the third, winning 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 Saturday. Hewitt, meanwhile, dropped the last six games to No. 28 Tommy Robredo of Spain 4-6, 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

"If I have to keep playing matches like this, I don't know how far I can go," Costa said. "I'm going to have to win one of these matches quickly."

Robredo and Costa were joined in the fourth round by countrymen Juan Carlos Ferrero, the 2002 runner-up who beat Tim Henman in four sets Saturday, and Felix Mantilla. A fifth Spaniard, 1998 champ Carlos Moya, advanced Friday.

During his news conference, Robredo asked: "Did Costa win? He was losing when I started my match."

Told Costa erased a 2-0 deficit, too, Robredo grinned.

"Things change," he said.

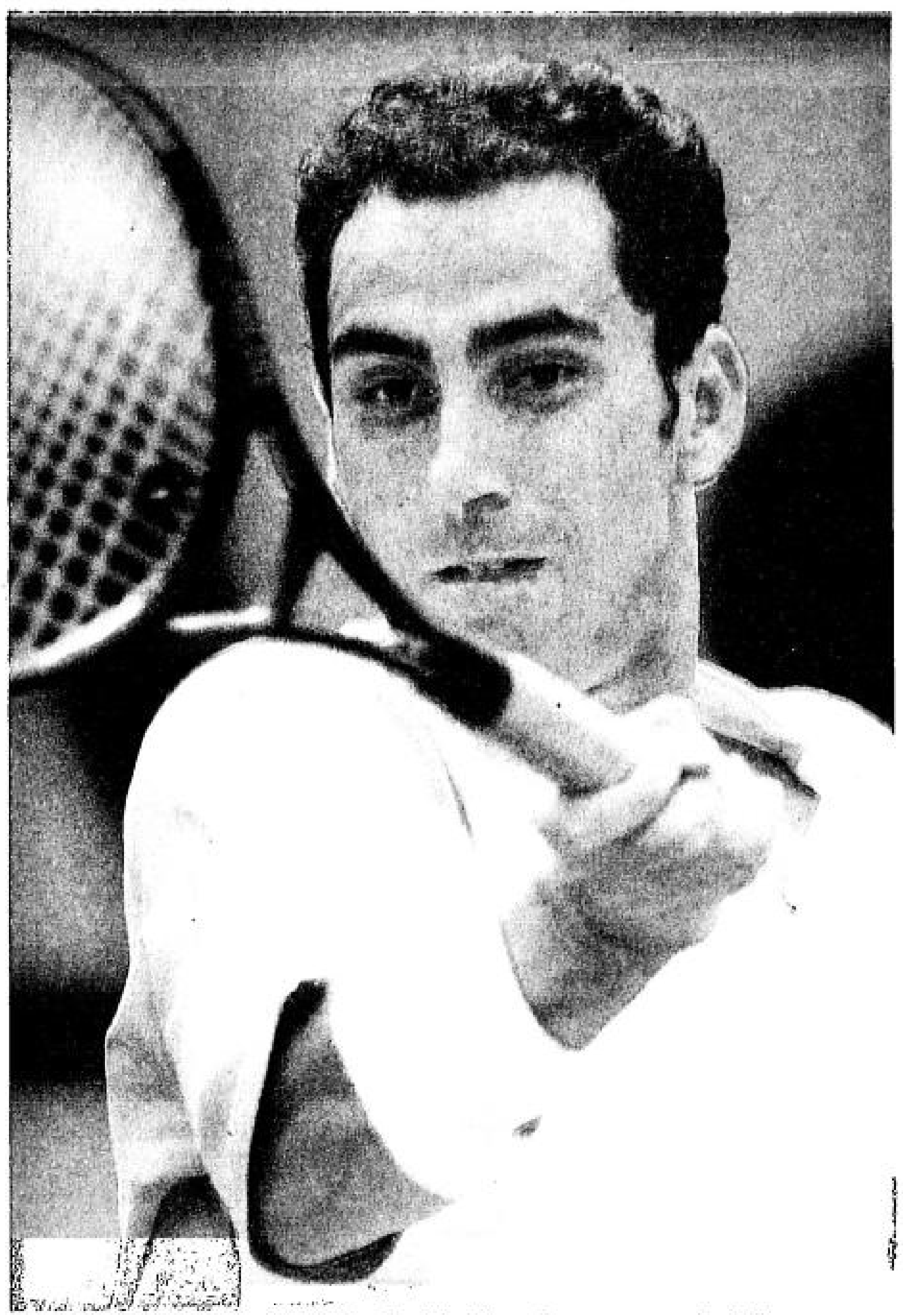
A couple of his sets against Lapentti lasted longer than entire matches played Saturday by Venus Williams, Kim Clijsters and Jennifer Capriati, all past finalists. Each dropped only three games.

Lindsay Davenport, troubled by a toe injury and never fond of clay, won handily, too, on a day that seven of eight women's matches finished in straight sets. The quarterfinalists will be determined Sunday.

Costa gets Sunday off, and he needs it. He's been on court nearly 12 hours already, playing 148 games. His next foe–No. 32 Arnaud Clement, the last Frenchman in the field–waded through merely 81 and hasn't lost a set.

Costa-Lapentti was packed with as much drama as a miniseries and was just as long. They hugged at the net when it ended; later, they accused each other of gamesmanship.

With warm temperatures, both sought treatment from trainers and both took bathroom breaks. After one, Lapentti returned to the court looking like he had taken a trip to the market, toting a can of soda, a bottle of water and a banana. *AP*



CRUNCHER: Defending champion Spain's Albert Costa returns the ball to Ecuador's Nicolas Lapentti in the third round of the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros stadium in Paris. He won in five punishing sets. AP

Venus faces rising young Russian next

PARIS—Venus Williams sounded like a wistful old-timer talking about her opponent Sunday at the French Open, 18-year-old Vera Zvonareva.

The promising young Russian has climbed from 371st in the rankings at the beginning of last year to 21st this week. She and Williams will meet for the first time in the fourth round at Roland Garros.

"I just remember when I was in the same position she's in, starting to be on tour," said Williams, now a wizened 22. "I was having a lot of fun. She's probably having a lot of fun, always looking forward to the big match, playing the No. 1 players in the world. That's probably what she feels."

Williams and Zvonareva advanced with easy victories Saturday. No. 2-seeded Kim Clijsters of Belgium, 2001 champion Jennifer Capriati and No. 6 Lindsay Davenport also won in straight sets.

There might be more drama in Sunday's matches, including Williams vs Zvonareva. The Russian pushed eventual champion Serena Williams to three sets in the fourth round in 2002.

"I'll be I think a little bit more confident this year," said Zvonareva, who is seeded 22nd.

"I've seen her play a few times," Williams said. "I'm ready."

Another matchup showcases the other end of the current generation, with Davenport, 26, facing Conchita Martinez, 31, who is in the fourth round for the 14th time. *AP*

Ducks bounce back in Stanley Cup

ANAHEIM, California—After going unnoticed by many hockey fans during his seven seasons in the NHL, Ruslan Salei made a dramatic impact on the sport's biggest stage on Saturday.

The Belarussian defenseman scored the winning goal 6:59 into overtime to give the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim their first victory in the Stanley Cup finals, a 3-2 win over the New Jersey Devils.

"It hasn't hit me yet," Salei said of the goal that narrowed the Devils' lead in the best-of-seven series to 2-1.

"It's unbelievable, though. So far, it's the biggest goal I scored." Salei got the puck when center Adam Oates drew a faceoff back toward him.

The defenseman fired a wrist shot that sailed past a motionless Martin Brodeur in the New Jersey goal.

Salei knew what to do once he got the puck.

"When you win the draw, you've got to shoot," he said. "As long as there is a line to shoot it, you've got to take a shot and hope for the best." Salei also knew the significance of his achievement.

"We're down two games and coming home, we need to get momentum going," he said. "That was huge for us." During the postgame press conference, Anaheim coach Mike Babcock teased Salei, who scored just 21 goals in little more than six full NHL seasons.

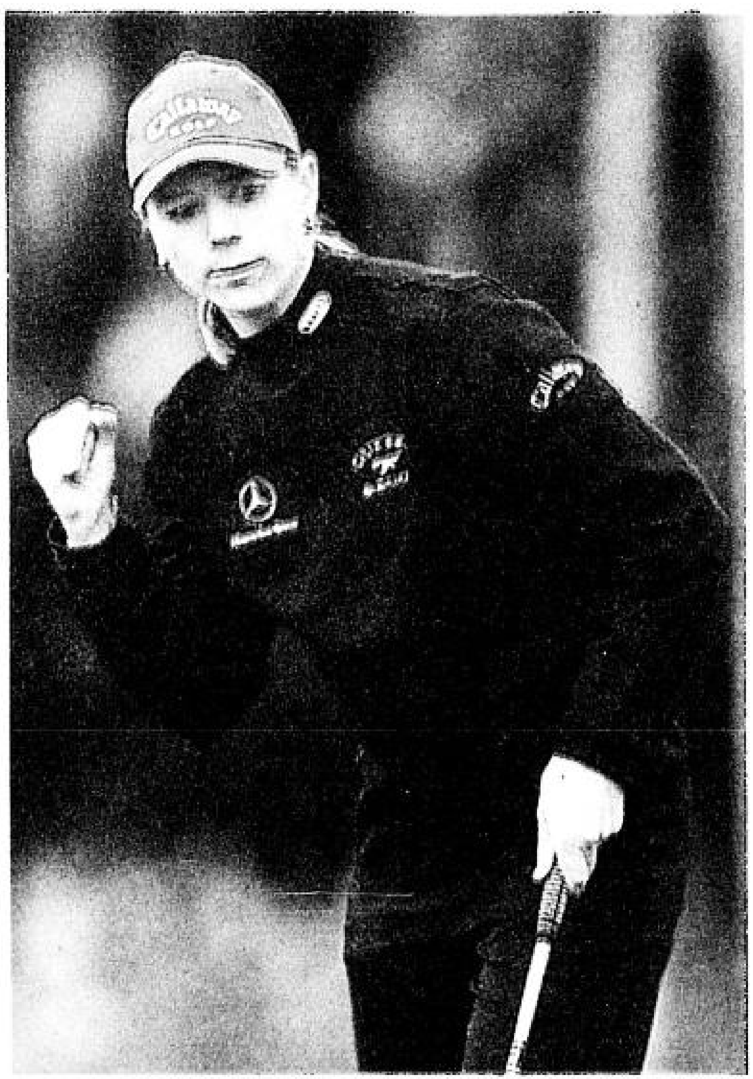
"We always say to him, 'Get it on net once in a while,'"

Babcock said.

"He bangs it around the glass with the best of them. But he can really shoot the puck." The 28-year-old barely receives the kind of attention that (netminder) Jean-Sebastien Giguere or (left wing) Paul Kariya get but since January, Salei has played a significant role in Anaheim's surge.

The defenseman, who played for his Belarus in the last two Winter Olympics, had a plus-minus rating of plus-10 for his final 23 games, despite missing 11 games in March with a lower back strain.

That means that when Salei was on the ice, the Mighty Ducks scored 10 more goals than they allowed. *AP*



FAMILIAR POSITION: Sweden's Annika Sorenstam pumps her fist after sinking a birdie putt on the 17th hole during the second round of the Kellogg-Keebler Classic at Stonebridge Country Club in Aurora, Illinois.

Annika sets pace; Rosie can't keep up

AURORA, Illinois—Annika Sorenstam set the pace and Rosie Jones could not keep up.

Sorenstam fired a 6-under-par 66 to open a two-stroke lead over Mhairi McKay after Saturday's second round of the 1.2 million dollar LPGA golf tournament.

"I'm very pleased with the way I played," said Sorenstam. "I thought the conditions were tougher, obviously because of the wind and the cooler temperatures. I didn't make too many mistakes today so very, very pleased with my round." One week removed from missing the cut in her historic appearance on the PGA Tour, Sorenstam has reaffirmed her dominance on the LPGA Tour. She followed Friday's course-record 62 with another very solid round and is at 16-under 128 after 36 holes over the Stonebridge Country Club.

Jones equalled Sorenstam with her own 62 on Friday that featured an astounding 10 birdies.

But she came hurtling back to reality with a pedestrian 71 that has her alone in third place at 133.

Between Sorenstam and Jones is McKay, a native of Scotland, who fired a 64, the best round of the day.

Her two-round total of 130 earned her a Sunday pairing with the best female player in the world.

"This is a course where you can go low," said Sorenstam, who will be gunning for her 44th career victory Sunday.

"Tomorrow I'm just going to go out and play the best I can. If I can be aggressive on one hole, I will be. It's a matter of how many birdies I can make tomorrow." Sorenstam's closing run of birdies came after consecutive three-putt bogeys on Nos. 12 and 13 that dropped her to just 1-under on the day.

"I told my caddy I've had enough," Sorenstam said. "I'm playing great, I'm hitting good shots, and let's turn this thing around.

"I know I can. So we said there's five more holes, let's get five birdies. And that's exactly what happened." None of the birdie putts was longer than seven feet. It capped a back nine on which Sorenstam had just one par–at the 10th hole.

"That's a little unusual, but I'm glad I had more birdies than bogeys," she said.

Jones shook off an opening bogey with three birdies on the front nine. But she followed with a bogey at the 10th hole. *AFP*

Perry on track for 2nd straight win

DUBLIN, Ohio—Overnight leader Kenny Perry shot a two-under-par 70 to remain clear of the Memorial Tournament field on Saturday as he bids to win for the second week running.

The 42-year-old, who cruised to victory at last week's Colonial, stands on 13-under 203 after three rounds and leads two-time US Open winner Lee Janzen (71) by two strokes.

Spain's Jose Maria Olazabal shot the day's lowest round (66) in blustery conditions to move into a tie for third on eight-under 208 with Fiji's Vijay Singh (72) and South African Retief Goosen (74), all three being former major winners.

However, it wasn't such a good day for three-time Memorial winner and world number one Tiger Woods who could only card a four-over-par 76 to slip back into a tie for 16th at two-under.

Woods is playing his first event on the PGA Tour since last month's Masters as he restricts his playing schedule to help recover from knee surgery in December.

Leading by a single shot, Perry began his round with 11 straight pars before birdies at the par-three 12th and par-four 14th hole.

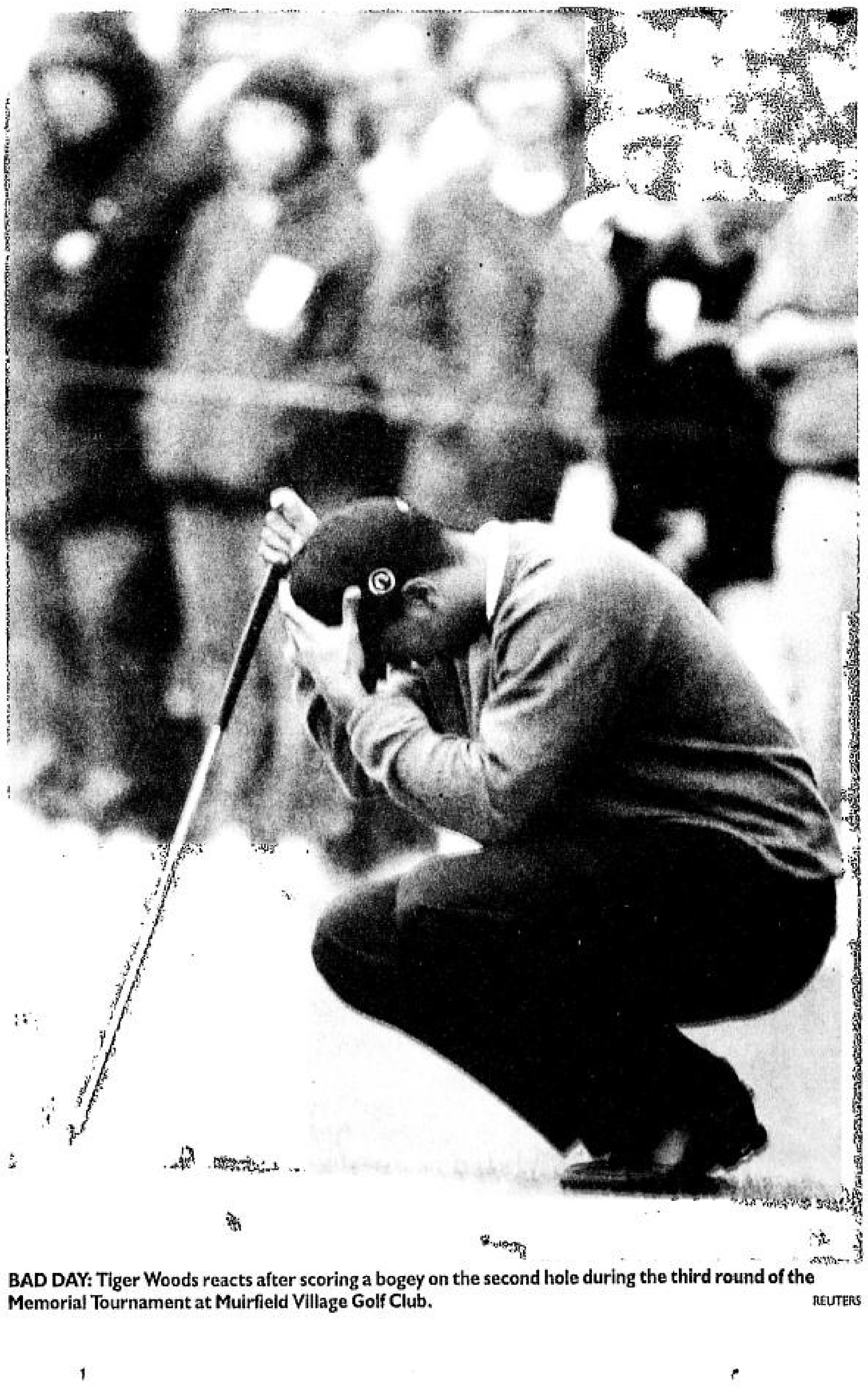
He then bogeyed the par-three 16th–his first lapse since the opening hole of the first round–but a birdie at the last restored his two-shot cushion.

Perry is seeking his second victory at this event after winning it in 1991 and also stands to become the 39th back-to-back winner on the PGA Tour.

"That was probably better than my 61 I shot last week at Colonial," Perry said.

"The conditions were just brutal out there. It was so raw, the wind was blowing so hard. It was hard to choose clubs." The third-round scoring average of 75.493 was over three shots more than Thursday's first round.

There were 53 rounds over par and eight scores of 80 or higher. *Reuters*



BAD DAY: Tiger Woods reacts after scoring a bogey on the second hole during the third round of the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club. REUTERS

Ruel stuns Victorino, gains final

SUBIC—Rolando Ruel Jr. ousted defending champion Joseph Victorino, 2-6, 7-6 (6), 6-4, yesterday to gain the final of the 2nd Coca-Cola National Open Tennis Championships at the Subic Bay International Tennis Center here.

Ruel will shoot for his first-ever Open title against third seed Johnny Arcilla, a 7-5, 6-0 winner over second seed and 2003 Philta Open runner-up Adelo Abadia.

"Second time *ko na makakaharap si* Johnny *sa* final. *Magaling siya pero lalaban ako nang husto,*" said Ruel, who lost to Arcilla in the 2000 Milo Open.

Victorino, the 2002 PCA Open champion and Philta Open winner last month, hurt his leg at the start of the third set and was stricken by cramps. His condition forced Victorino to default his doubles quarterfinal match against Joseph Arcilla and Ricardo Lagac Jr. Victorino was to team up with Alexander Lazaro.

Top-ranked Ana Patricia Santos scored a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Deena Rose Cruz in the women's singles.

PBA should follow PBL drug policy

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE PERFORMANCE sheets of the Philippine Basketball Association at present do not make for happy reading. In its battle against drug abuse, the PBA should follow the example of the Philippine Basketball League, which has decided not to make public the names of players who fail drug tests.

"The PBL will not humiliate in public players who will be found positive," Commissioner Chino Trinidad had said. "These players are victims and they must not be crucified."

In the PBA, Commissioner Noli Eala recently shocked the local basketball world by revealing the names of several marquee players like Jun Limpot of Ginebra, Davonn Harp of Batang Red Bull, Noli Locsin and Long David of Talk N' Text, Ryan Bernardo of Federal Express and San Miguel Beer's Dorian Peña as having failed the mandatory drug-testing conducted by the league. Eala had earlier named Asi Taulava of TNT, Jimwell Torion of Red Bull, Norman Gonzales of TNT, Ginebra's Alex Crisano and Peña as drug offenders.

As this developed, Sen. Robert Jaworski said a Senate hearing would be conducted this week to find out what really went wrong and to zero in on the actual sources of the illegal drugs. "I will not ask the players concerned to incriminate themselves but to help themselves. So they might as well tell us from whom they got these drugs," said Jaworski.

"The first three names in the list of offenders were alarming, but the additional six were completely devastating," added the 56-year-old senator. "I was shocked. *Hindi ko matanggap kasi kilala ko ang mga bata* (I can't believe they're drug offenders because I know them)."

Jaworski said he would also ask the PBA to spearhead a character-building program to educate the players of the dangers of taking illegal drugs, saying "it might enhance your performance now but it can kill you later. What good will you get out of taking drugs," he asked.

For his part, George Balagtas, Red Bull corporate senior vice president, said, "We appeal to Commissioner Eala to reconsider totally the anti-drug policy, particularly the way mandatory and random tests are being conducted." He assailed the alleged sloppy handling of the urine samples prior to transport to the PNP crime lab. As a matter of fact, Willie Miller, Harp's teammate, said the two vials containing their urine samples were just dumped carelessly along with the rest of the urine bottles.

Balagtas said Red Bull is supporting Eala all the way, but he cautioned the commissioner to be extra careful in addressing the problem, to be responsible and act as a father to these players who are being judged as drug offenders when we cannot even be sure if the drug tests are fool-proof. "We ask them to be a little more prudent and considerate because what is involved here is the reputation of a player who is just trying–and working hard–to earn a living," Balagtas said.

"Remember, this is a serious matter that concerns not only the players' career but their lives, their future and their families as well," said Ginebra team manager Ira Maniquis, who also stressed that Limpot has been taking vitamins and nutritional supplements which he did not know may have contained banned substance.

***

'ENCOUNTER AT THE DOME.' The biggest and richest one-day seven-cock derby billed as "Encounter at the Big Dome" gets going today at the Araneta Coliseum, with the country's leading cocker-breeders competing for fame and fortune. Widely accepted as the national championship for fighting cocks, the blue-ribbon affair will be hosted by sabong luminaries Ito Ynares and Gerry Ramos under the aegis of the National Cockers Association. Heading the elite entry book are SMB big boss Danding Cojuangco, Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, the unsinkable James Chiongbian, Peping Cojuangco and longtime partner Esting Teopaco, two-time NCA Cocker of the Year Jun Santiago, Patrick Antonio, popular lawyer Rudy Salud, Butch and Jake Macasaet, Eddie Araneta of Liza Galore Farms, Frank Berin of Mulawin fame, Biboy Enriquez, Claude Bautista, Fil-Americans Rene Medina and Ric de Guzman, Alex and Gerry Escalona and Pampanga's champion cockers Jun and Rudy Jingco and the Madlambayan brothers.

Gaag, Ashton share Subic triathlon honors

SUBIC Bay Freeport—Former world champion Dmitry Gaag and Melissa Ashton dominated their respective divisions in the 10th Subic Bay International Triathlon here yesterday.

Gaag, the 1999 world titlist who's currently ranked 8th, clocked 1 hour 54 minutes and 49 seconds in beating 2002 Asian Triathlon champion Daniil Sapunov, who finished 14 seconds behind.

Ashton timed 2:08:10 in topping the women's division despite having just four hours of sleep after arriving from Sydney. Ashton, ranked 25th in the world, checked in four minutes and 17 seconds ahead of Japanese Yokako Inoue, the 2001 SUBIT runner-up, in the event featuring a 1.5-km swim, 40-km bike and 10-km run.

Portuguese Bruno Pals copped third in the men's division with a 1:55:36 clocking while Kazakh Ekaterina Shatnaya placed third in the women's side in 2:12.24.

George Vilog and Ani Karina de Leon retained their respective titles in the accompanying Enervon National Triathlon Championship.

Irene storms ahead

IRENE Benitez shone the brightest in the 32nd Boysen-PBC International Open Bowling Championships at the Green Valley Bowling Center Saturday night. Benitez wrested the lead from Yap Seok Kim in the ladies Class O singles and is also ahead in the all-events. She toppled 864 pins against Kim's 838 in the singles and posted 1674 in the all-events to tow Cecilia Yap (1591) and Kim (1579). Combining with Ellen Ramos, Benitez also paces the doubles event with a 795 total. In addition, Benitez is part of the pacesetting team which also includes Jojo Canare and Liza del Rosario.

RP lady booters off today

THE PHILIPPINE women's football team is leaving today to compete in the Asian Women's Championship set June 8-20 in Bangkok.

Leading the Nationals are striker and skipper Jo Loren, defenders Andrea Yang, Malou Rubio, Karen Octaviano; midfielders Karen Cacho, Mariel Benitez and Marnelli Salvador; and goalkeeper Diane Blando.

Marlon Maro will be coaching the lady booters in Thailand.

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3. There will be six (6) Monthly draws to be held every last Friday of the month starting May 30, 2003 to October 31, 2003. The drawing of which is through tambiolo to be held at Ad Options at 2:00 PM to be supervised by a duly-authorized DTI representative, with representatives from Darlington and Ad Options as well.

4. The monthly winners will be published on Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Bulletin and People's Journal. Winners will be notified through registered mail.

5. There will be twenty (20) winners of P1,000 in each Monthly draw.

6. A customer can only win once per draw.

7. Non-winning entries will be included in all succeeding draws.

8. Only entries received until every last Thursday of the month from May 29-Oct. 30, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. qualify for the draw. Entries received beyond this deadline will be included in the succeeding draws.

9. In claiming prizes, winners have to present the following:
   a. Any valid ID (Driver's license, Company/ Student ID, Passport, Voter's ID, SSS/ GSIS ID).
   b. The other half of the raffle stub with the matching winning raffle number
   c. P300.00 worth of Darlington socks and stockings (accumulated or single receipt dated within the promo period, March 15-October 30, 2003)
   d. The unit/ picture where the sticker is fixed.
   e. Copy of the registered mail.

Redemption of prizes for Metro Manila winners will be at Ad Options, 3/F Doña Guadalupe Bldg., 7462 Bagtikan St., San Antonio Village, Makati City. Redemption of prizes for Provincial winners will be through bank arrangement or through courier.

10. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Darlington with prior DTI-approval.

11. Employees of Darlington, its ad agency, promo persons, merchandisers and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

12. Promo period is from March 15, 2003 to October 30, 2003.

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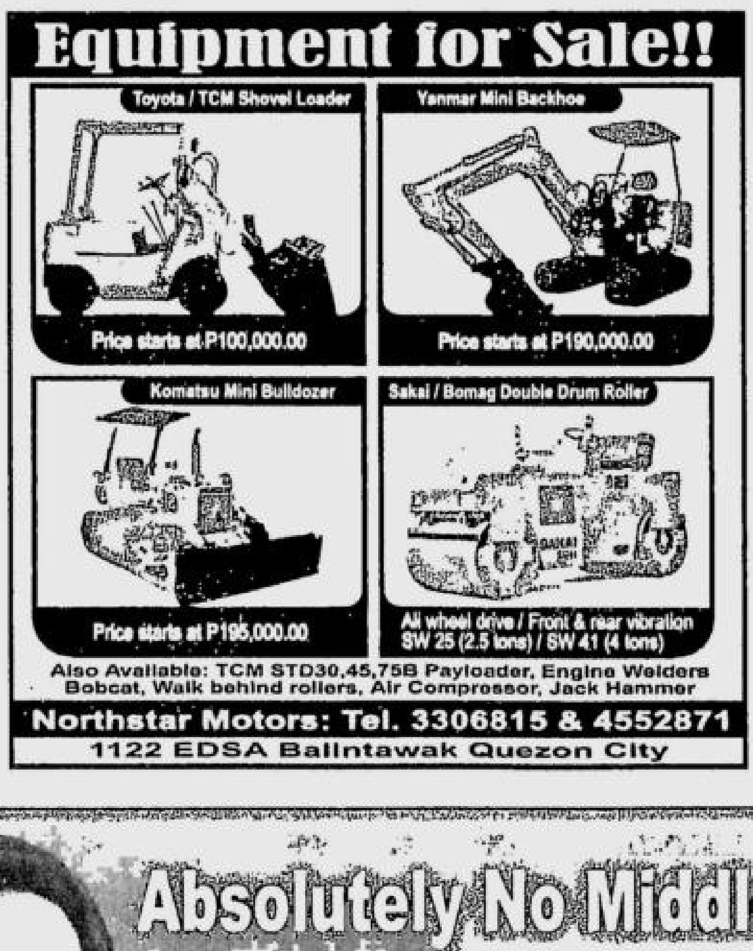
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0251 Series of 2003



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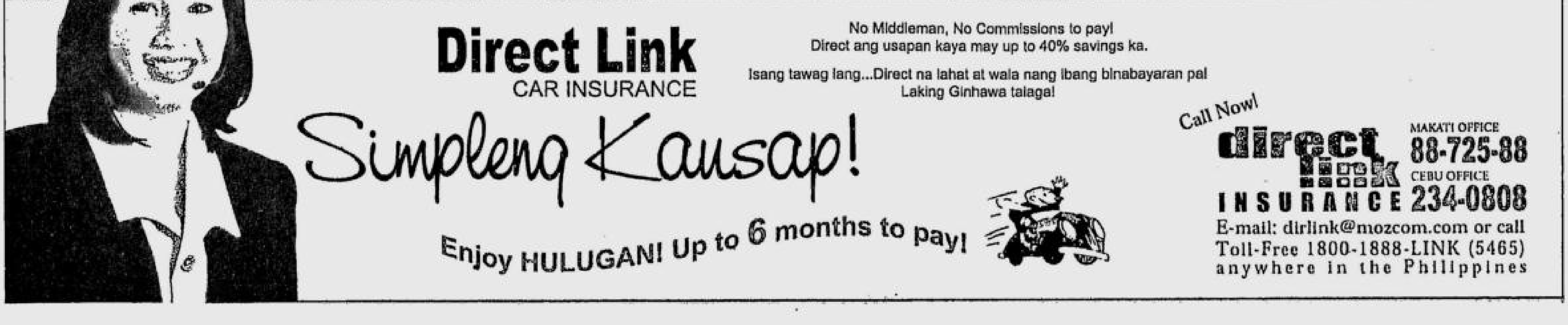

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SPORTS

Reyes tops 9-ball meet

EFREN "Bata" Reyes, living up to his reputation as the world's best billiards player, dumped fellow Filipino Warren Kiamco, 11-2, last night to rule the Manila leg of the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour at the Pearl Plaza in Parañaque.

The 48-year-old Reyes, recently named to the Bowling Hall of Fame and runaway winner in a worldwide poll to decide the greatest cue master of all time, pocketed the top purse of $20,000 (P1.06 million). Kiamco settled for $10,000 (P5.3 million).

Reyes, dubbed "The Magician" for his tough, nearly improbable shots, hurdled compatriot and Busan Asian Games gold medallist Antonio Lining, 9-4 in the semifinals.

Kiamco exacted revenge over Chinese-Taipei's Lee Kun Fang, 13-11, to arrange the Race to 11 final showdown with Reyes. Lee denied Kiamco the 9-ball singles gold medal in the Asiad last year.

The Kiamco-Lee semifinal was a thriller, with the 33-year-old Filipino, the 1999 Asian champion and ranked No. 8 in the world, finally prevailing when Lee missed the eight ball on the 24th rack.

Reyes' other victims were Indonesia's Mohammad Junarto, 9-8, in the round of 16 and Singapore's Eddie Ang Kee Tian, 9-1, in the elimination round.

The event was sponsored by San Miguel Beer, organized by ESPN Star Sports and sanctioned by the Asian Pocket Billiard Union.

The top ten finishers automatically qualified for the World Pool Championships slated in Cardiff, Wales, in July.

REYES: Still king

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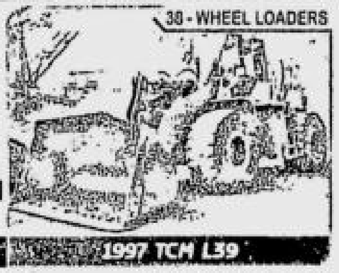

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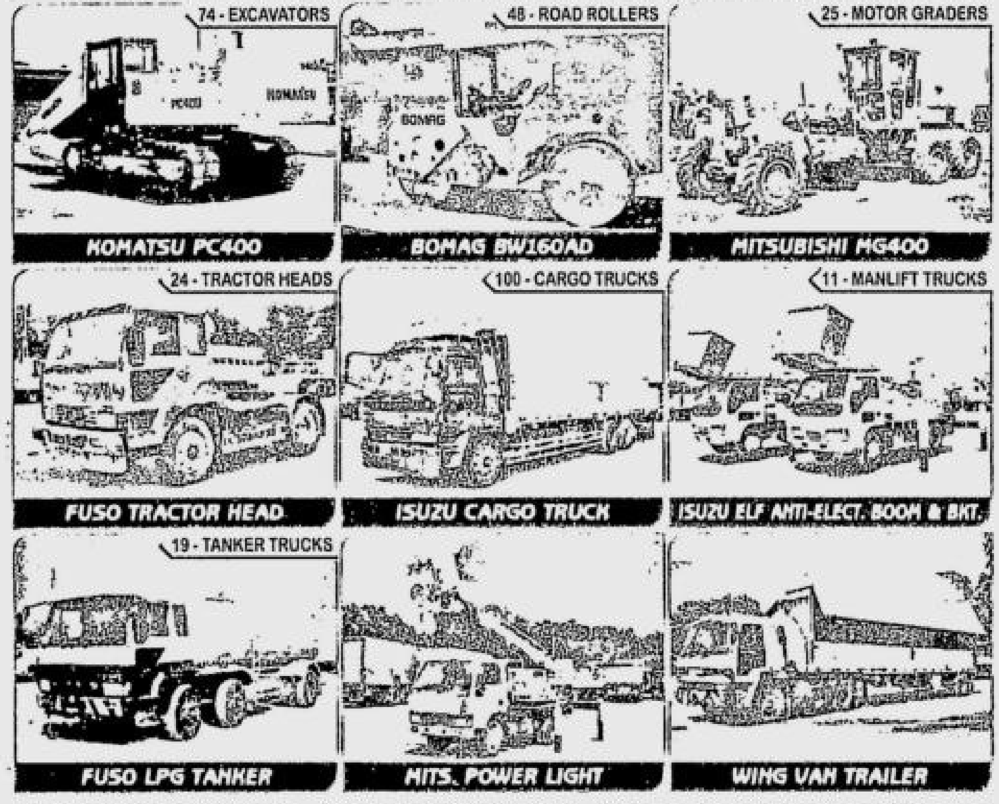

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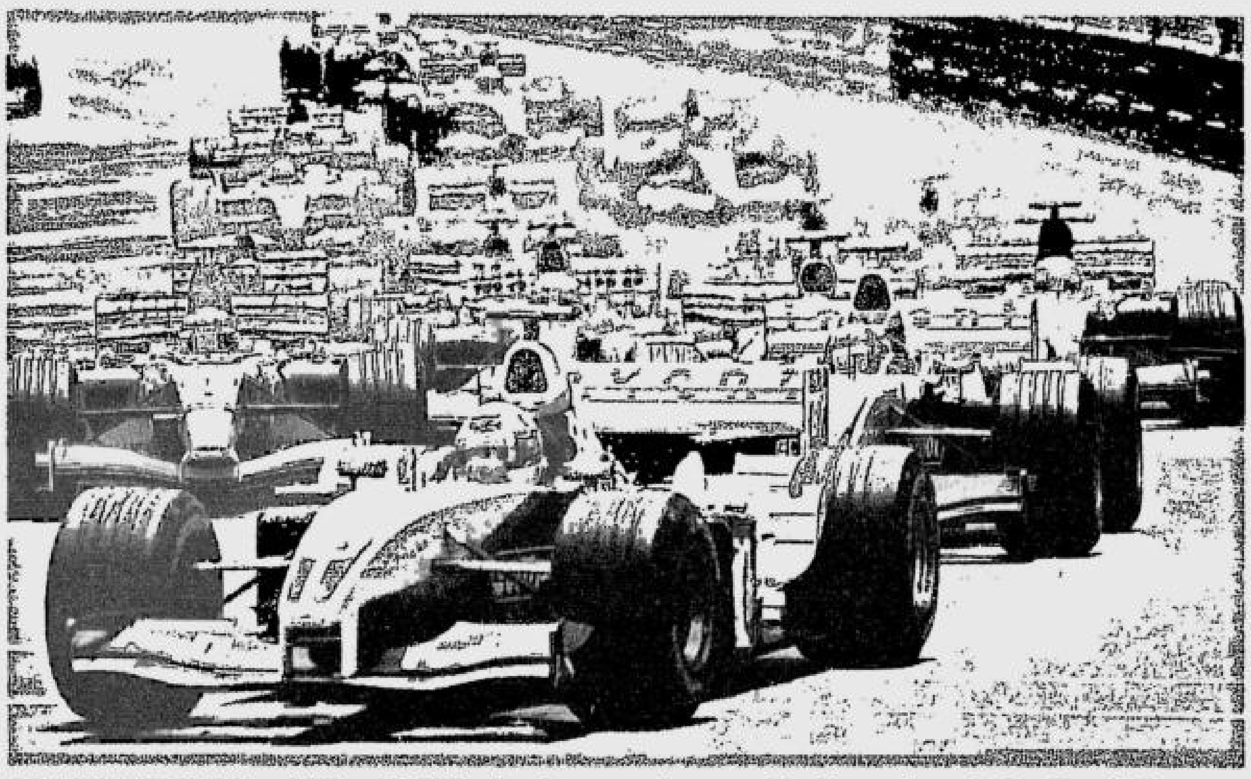

RALF SCHUMACHER in a Williams-BMW leading the race at the start of the Monaco Formula One Grand Prix.

Montoya triumphs in Monaco

MONACO—Colombian Juan Pablo Montoya won the Monaco Formula One Grand Prix on Sunday to end a 20-year Williams jinx.

It was the second win of Montoya's 41 race career and the first of the season for BMW-powered Williams, whose last triumph in the Mediterranean principality was in 1983 with Finland's Keke Rosberg.

Finland's Kimi Raikkonen finished runner-up for McLaren, 0.6 of a second behind Montoya, to stretch his championship lead over Ferrari's world champion Michael Schumacher to four points after seven races.

Raikkonen has 48 points, Schumacher 44.

Schumacher finished a close third, his hopes of equaling the late Brazilian Ayrton Senna's record of six Monaco wins in tatters after a highly strategic race on a tight street circuit where overtaking is almost impossible.

It was the first time since Ferrari introduced their new F2003-GA car last month that the Italian team had been beaten and ended Schumacher's quest for a fourth victory in a row after a poor start to the season.

Montoya's team mate Ralf Schumacher was fourth, after starting from pole, with Spaniard Fernando Alonso fifth for Renault ahead of teammate Italian Jarno Trulli.

McLaren's David Coulthard was seventh, while Brazilian Rubens Barrichello claimed the final point for champions Ferrari.

McLaren regained the lead in the constructors' championship with 73 points to Ferrari's 71. *Reuters*

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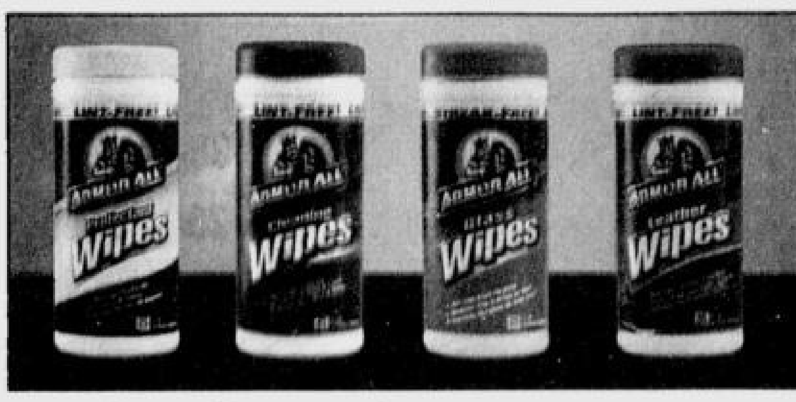

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Gov't sees ₱5B in savings from CBK deal

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT expects to save $95 million (about P5 billion) from a settlement agreement it reached with CBK Power Co. Ltd. involving the National Power Corp.'s contract with the IPP, according to energy officials.

The $486-million contract with CBK Power involves the rehabilitation work on and maintenance and operation of the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan hydro power complex in Laguna.

Edgardo del Fonso, president of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., said the amount saved included CBK Power's concession to waive its right to collect from Napocor the last four installments due on the security deposit amounting to $26 million (about P1 billion).

CBK Power is a 50-50 joint venture between Industrias Metalurgicas Pescarmona Sociedad Anonyma (Impsa) of Argentina and Edison Mission Energy of the United States.

The settlement had rendered the $70-million security deposit an interest-free loan extended by CBK Power to Napocor, Del Fonso said.

The official added that under the deal, CBK Power agreed to waive until December 2003 part of its claims for capital recovery fees as well as the operation and maintenance fees on the "Kalayaan Stage 2" part of the contract work.

CBK Power also agreed to provide Napocor free of charge for any electricity delivered above the mnimum guaranteed level for a year and a half.

But Del Fonso added that the agreement was still subject to the consent of the creditors of CBK Power.

"This settlement benefits both parties and will eventually help reduce power rates," he said. "The agreement will not result in any stranded contract costs (costs that will be recovered from all electricity consumers)."

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said the resolution of the issues besetting the CBK contract brought to 18 the number of deals with independent power producers that have been settled.

Perez said seven other contracts that either had no pending issues or had only minor ones have been clarified and resolved, giving a total of 25 contracts cleared out of 35 under review.

"Negotiations with several IPPs have been fairly successful, generating savings to the government that total $832 million in net present value without undermining the viability of the firms to earn fair and reasonable returns," he said.

In February, Perez said the savings were offered by the IPPs within the terms of existing contracts following a series of bilateral talks with the Department

GOV'T/ B6

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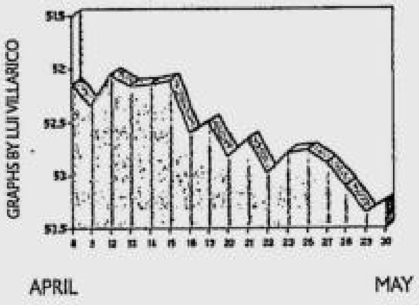

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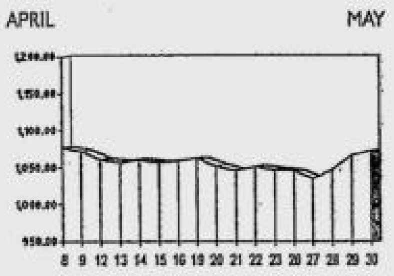
STOCK MARKET

Stocks seen to strengthen

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

THE STOCK market would likely strengthen further this week following the surprisingly robust 4.5-percent growth of the domestic economy in the first quarter.

"In the short term, we see some more upward potential in the equity market," Jose Vistan of AB Capital said in Philstocks.net.

The market's main index closed the week higher by 26.35 points or 2.52 percent at 1,073.49 than the previous week's level following strong gains byGlobe Telecoms Inc. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Fitch Ratings assigned a stable outlook for Globe given its strong product and competitive position and also raised its outlook on PLDT, the country's largest telecommunication company, to stable from negative following a successful debt-reduction program.

Leading the charge for the market were the major telecom issues. Globe Telecoms surged 7 percent week on week to P610 while PLDT advanced by 2.98 percent to P432.50.

Vistan said that whether positive sentiments could continue would depend on how interest rates and other upcoming economic data would shape up.

"Interest rates are likely to be volatile as the market's will be speculating on what the BSP will do on its overnight rates and the US FOMC on the Fed Funds rate. A better picture can be painted once the May inflation rate is released next week," Vistan noted.

Vistan observed that a major factor that contributed to the market's rise last week was liquidity. Around P40 billion in fresh liquidity was

STOCKS/ B6

RP eyes more trade with Korea, Japan

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES will bat for increased trade in agricultural products and higher investments from Japan and Korea during the President's trip to these two countries, according to Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II.

Roxas noted that Japan and Korea were among the country's top trading partners and investment sources and the President was looking to personally explore opportunities to broaden these ties. The President will go on a state visit to Korea from June 2 to 4 and will hold a working visit to Japan from June 5 to 6.

In Japan, Roxas said the President would seek to gain more access for Philippine goods into that country's heavily protected farm sector and more jobs for Filipinos in its services sector.

ROXAS

Roxas said the President would also seek to push forward the ongoing talks on a bilateral free trade agreement between the Philippines and Japan as a precursor to the broader Asean+3 (China and South Korea are the other two participating countries) trading bloc.

He said the President was ready to face Japanese businessmen on her upcoming trip in the

RP/ B3

Asian central banks to launch $1-B fund

By Doris C. Dumlao

ASIAN central banks are set to announce today the creation of an Asian bond fund worth at least $1 billion that seeks to reduce, if not completely eliminate, the region's vulnerability to a currency turmoil similar to what erupted in 1997.

Sources privy to the scheme said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had committed $100 million as contribution to the new fund, which aims to perk up the regional market for bonds by investing in these long-term securities.

The fund will be managed by the Geneva-based Bank for International Settlements (BIS), considered as the central bank of all central banks.

The BIS is set to release a statement today to announce details of the new fund. Eleven Asia-Pacific countries, including Japan, are expected to take part in the Asian bond fund, the sources added.

For its part, the International Monetary Fund had agreed to let the central banks count the investments in the bond fund as part of their gross international reserves (GIR), or foreign currency holdings, the sources said.

As such, the investment in the fund will not cause a reduction in the GIR. In the case of the BSP, its GIR level currently stands at about $16.2 billion.

The fund was conceived as a structural reform meant to shield the region from another currency crisis as mere currency swap or liquidity arrangements

ASIAN/ B6

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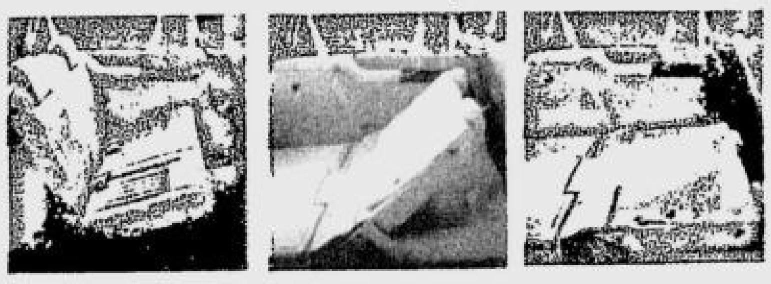
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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

AS 2004 draws near, our beloved senators must be delighted. Just in time for the fast build-up to next year's elections, the tobacco lobby is about to intensify. Yehey!

And the stimulation for such an intense lobby for lung cancer is the so-called FCTC. Now this has nothing to do with nuclear weapons or fake Viagra.

Actually, the FCTC is the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. It is a new international treaty. Some 192 WHO members signed it just recently. Finally!

The Senate is the next battleground for the FCTC. Unfortunately for the rest of us, 2004 is just around the corner. A mile away, you can hear the sound of "kachiiing."

***

AS AN international agreement similar to those on children's rights, or land mines, or world trade, the FCTC carries with it the force of law.

For the first time ever, the WHO itself initiated an international treaty. Moreover, the FCTC is the first and only world treaty on public health in the history of mankind.

And it is all about the dangers of smoking! Thus the new treaty tries to discourage the use of tobacco worldwide, meaning, including the Philippines.

Holy smoke—it's a little piece of bad news for the likes of Fortune Tobacco and Philip Morris. As such, it can only be good news for the Senate. Uh-oh.

***

STARTED in 1999, the FCTC was four years in the making. What took health officials so long to agree on such a desirable treaty? Too many cigarette breaks?

What else—it's the usual tobacco lobby. Exerting power and influence over the WHO members to have the FCTC disapproved were the world's richest countries.

No, sorry, we were not one of them. They were actually the United States, Germany and Japan, which are the home bases of the world's biggest tobacco businesses.

Those countries threatened to make sure that the FCTC went up in smoke. They did not want to sign it. But all of a sudden, it passed the WHO. I'm afraid there's something up their sleeves.

***

AS I said, the next step is the treaty's approval on the country level. It is now the turn of the government bodies in all the WHO members.

In our case, fortunately for the senators, the Constitution says the job of ratifying any foreign treaty belongs to the Senate. It's where the tobacco lobby now shifts.

With the WHO, the treaty got the support of volumes of technical analysis. Most WHO delegates were also health officials. They were aware of the dangers of smoking.

At the government level of the WHO members, things can be more promising for the tobacco lobby. They can always use mind-altering devices such as bribe.

***

WITH the FCTC now going to the Senate, one lone senator comes to mind as its likely supporter, Sen. Juan Flavier.

He was the only health secretary who launched an anti-smoking campaign. As a senator, he also sponsored bills to ban cigarette advertising, which passed three Senates.

I am serious, three times, the Senate passed the ad ban on cigarettes. And three times, the House of Representatives smothered the bills on the ashtray.

Here, I'm afraid, the tobacco lobby is nothing new. It also seems to succeed all the time. What more now that 2004 is near.

***

LOOK, even this cute administration of Gloriaetta had no choice but to give the US tobacco company Philip-Morris a little favor.

That was, courtesy of the Board of Investments, the multi-million peso tax incentive for Philip Morris to put up a huge cigarette factory in Batangas.

Nobody can say if the tobacco lobby took part in the recent US trip of Gloriaetta. But the new factory of Philip Morris here is vital to its regional marketing.

I just don't know why this cute administration must give tax breaks for something which can cause lung cancer. Maybe it was for our population control program.

***

ANYWAY, economic growth seems to be the battle cry of all the political hangers-on who want Gloriaetta to get on the comeback trail.

They are saying that, thanks to the miraculous growth spurt of the economy, Gloriaetta now has a good chance of seeking reelection. Really?

A few months ago, somebody close to Gloriaetta told me that it would take a miracle for Gloriaetta to decide to run in 2004.

That miracle would a big jump in her popularity rating. This would not happen unless the economy grows fast and high so that everybody could find work. Not yet.

***

TO START, where did the "good enough" growth in the past quarter come from—just the Neda figures? Of course not. The growth came mainly from consumer spending.

That is good, but that is not what economists call a "sustainable" growth pattern. Look, you can't keep on buying new shoes unless you want to grab the title from Imelda.

As usual, some analysts were surprised. They expected a lower growth rate. So the actual result is surprising, to them, when it goes against their own guesswork.

Anyway, this cute administration is still overspending, which contributed to the growth rate. And a healthy growth, as they say, should always come from investments.

***

BUT of course the dangerous investments of Philip Morris got the usual excuse from this cute administration. The investments would lead to more government revenue.

That was exactly the PR line of this cute administration in giving Philip Morris tax incentives—investments which would yield revenue in the long run.

Nobody in this cute administration even cared to look at a study done in 1999, which was around the time Philip Morris, er, "arranged" for its new factory here.

It showed that government revenue from tobacco reached P26 billion that year. That was big money, you would say, particularly for a cash-starved government.

But the economic cost of smoking (i.e. lung cancer, other diseases, loss of productivity) was P41 billion that same year.

***

OF course that was what economists call the "hidden cost" of smoking. I think the tobacco lobby will want to keep it hidden.

Anyway, it did not occur to this cute administration that, when Philip Morris tried to get into Singapore and Malaysia, those countries slammed the door on its face.

And that's why Philip Morris came to the Philippines, and this cute administration not only welcome it with open arms, it even waived some taxes for Philip Morris. Nice.

Now Philip Morris is looking at other factory sites in Asean. It is knocking on the doors of Vietnam and Cambodia. It is getting aggressive in the region—for a reason, of course.

***

YOU see, one important feature of that anti tobacco-use international treaty FCTC is the imposition of stiff taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products.

High taxes should bring up the prices of those, ahh, "unhealthy" products, to put it mildly. High prices—or make it "prohibitive" prices—should discourage usage.

Instead of dealing with punitive taxes on tobacco products, which is the idea in the FCTC, Philip Morris even got tax breaks from this cute administration. Wonderful!

Moreover, under the Asean Free Trade Agreement, or Afta, the so-called "local" products can enjoy zero tariff. And so Philip Morris went ... well, "local." *Huli ka!*

***

JUST take a look at the marketing campaign of Philip Morris today. It prides itself on being a "local" product. This means zero tariff, okay!

And so today Philip Morris is getting more aggressive in its production and marketing in the Asean region. It implemented the plan about four years ago.

Whadayano, four years ago was also about the time when the WHO started working on the FCTC.

It was about the same time that Philip Morris went shopping around Asean for new factory sites. It's the Afta. With its zero tariff, it was a way around the FCTC.

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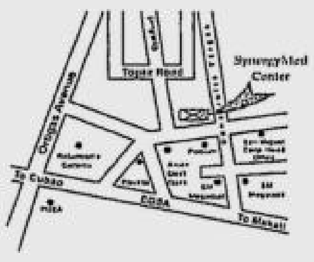

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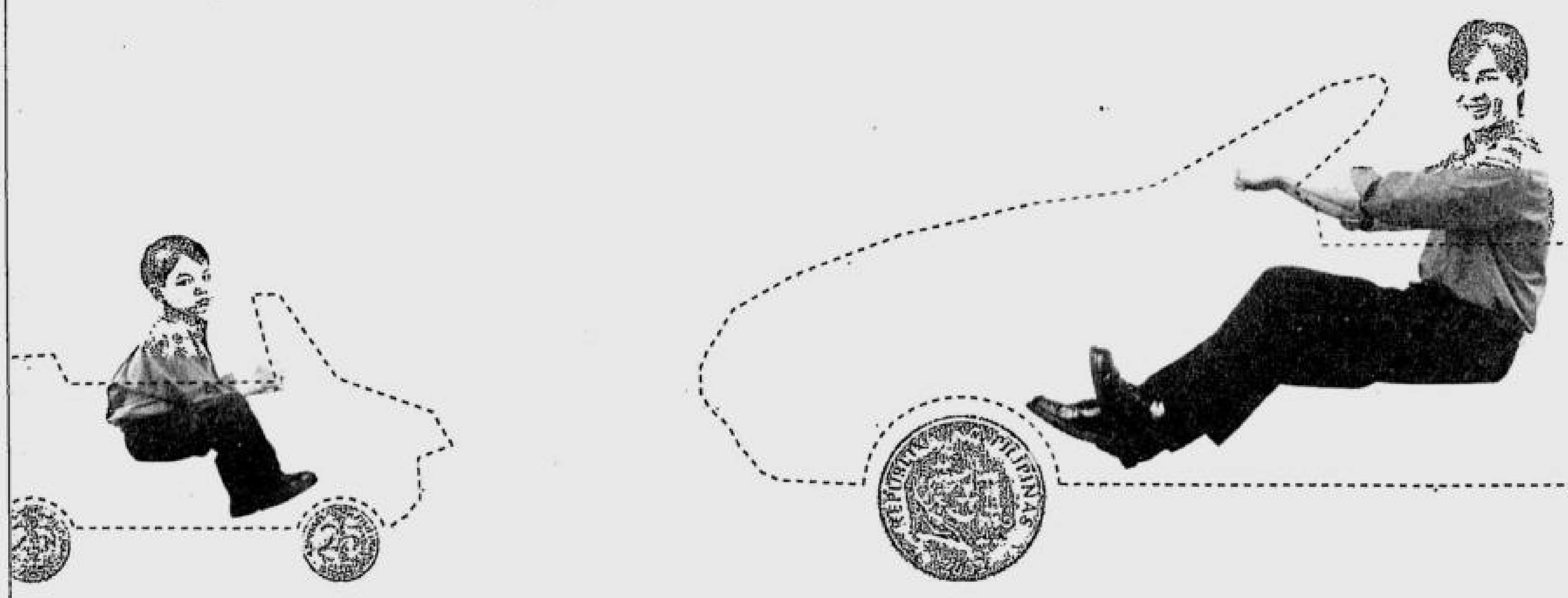

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Dionne's little prayer

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

DIVA Dionne Warwick has a message to Filipinos: You'll never get to competitive, globalized heaven if you keep coming late.

The singer, here for a two-night concert, admonished her Friday audience after her solo concert at the Star City started half an hour late.

According to concert goers, Warwick told the SRO-crowd that the local producers had advised her to start at 8:30 p.m. instead of the published 8 p.m., because of the bad weather and the usual Filipino time.

Before she performed, Warwick reminded the audience about the importance of keeping appointments, rattling off Frank Sinatra and other singers whom she said always started their performances on the dot.

The superstar said she agreed to the 30-minute delay because of the heavy rains, but warned the audience—Warwick was wishin' and hopin'—that her Saturday night show would start promptly at eight. (Note: This column was written Saturday afternoon.)

Despite the lecture, the concert went well with, according to the grapevine, the audience of matrons and young couples lapping up every love song the superstar of romance spiritedly sang, accompanied by a live band she brought all the way from Brazil, where the American singer is now based.

The Filipinos gave a rousing standing ovation after Warwick's one-and-a half hour non-stop performance, yet, like her previous concert in Manila in the late '70s (if we remember correctly), the diva did not oblige the locals an encore.

Still, the audience went home—though their houses may not be homes—humming Warwick's tunes, happy in the thought that, even in how many days of sadness when they just don't know what to do with themselves, there's always something to remind them, and that, after saying a little prayer any old time of day and making the Warwick music play, that would make it easy on themselves, trapped they may be in Manila's infernal traf-

COCKTALES/ B4

RP eyes more trade . . .

From page B1

wake of criticisms made by the Japanese ambassador to the Philippines Kojiro Takano that security concerns have led to sleepless nights and conflicting policies and a widening budget deficit were turning away investors. The President has dismissed Takano's statements as exaggerated and unfair.

Roxas said the issues brought up by Takano have been raised six months ago and have been addressed by the government since then. He said Toyota Motor's decision to invest an additional P3.34 billion into the country was proof that the government had made some strides in making the country a hospitable place for investors.

Bourse OKs listing of PNB preferred shares

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange board approved last week the listing of P7.8 billion worth of Philippine National Bank convertible preferred shares to partly round out the execution of the bank's rehabilitation program.

The PSE approval covers the listing of 195.18 million PNB convertible preferred shares and of the equivalent number of underlying common shares both with a par value of P40 each.

Actual listing and trading of the common shares will take effect upon actual conversion of the preferred shares into common shares.

The shares, which are non-voting and non-cumulative, will automatically be converted into common shares upon their sale to non-government entities or individuals.

Under an agreement signed last year between the group of Lucio Tan and the government, P7.8 billion of P23.9 billion in advances of government agencies would be turned into convertible preferred shares at P40 a share to allow each party to hold 45 percent of the bank.

Out of the remainder of the advances, P10 billion were settled through dacion en pago arrangement and P6.1 billion were stretched out into a 10-year low-interest borrowing.

In line with the government agreement with Lucio Tan, both will jointly sell their combined 90-percent stake in the bank. Failing that, Tan will effectively have the right to buy out the government's stake in the bank.

PNB has recently reported a P53-million profit in the first quarter of this year, breaking a five-year losing streak.

In a briefing with reporters after the bank's annual stockholders' meeting last week, PNB president Lorenzo Tan said that the bank was expected to generate a net profit ranging from P29 million to P100 million for 2003.

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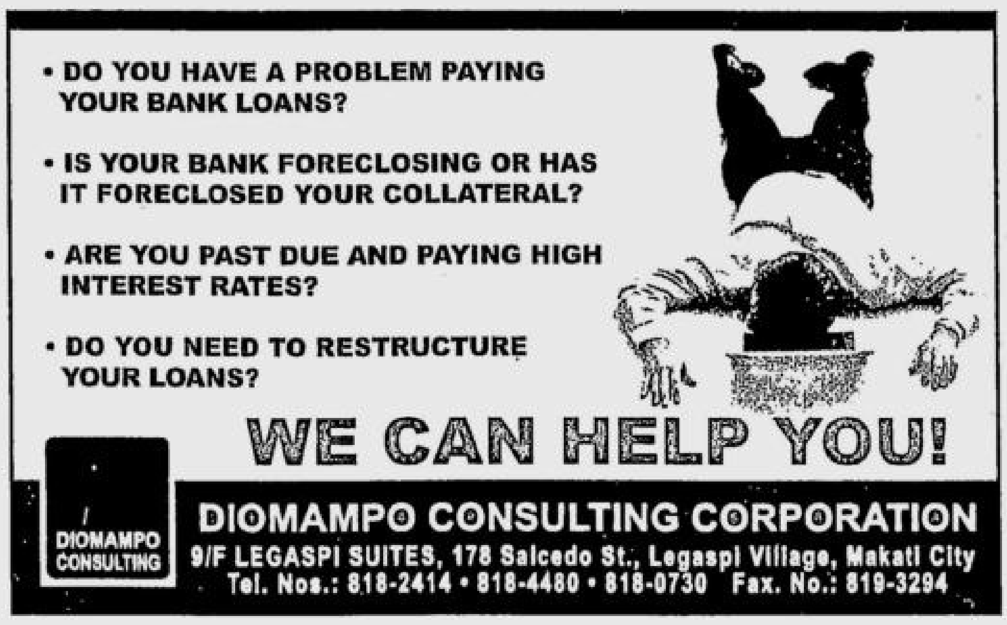
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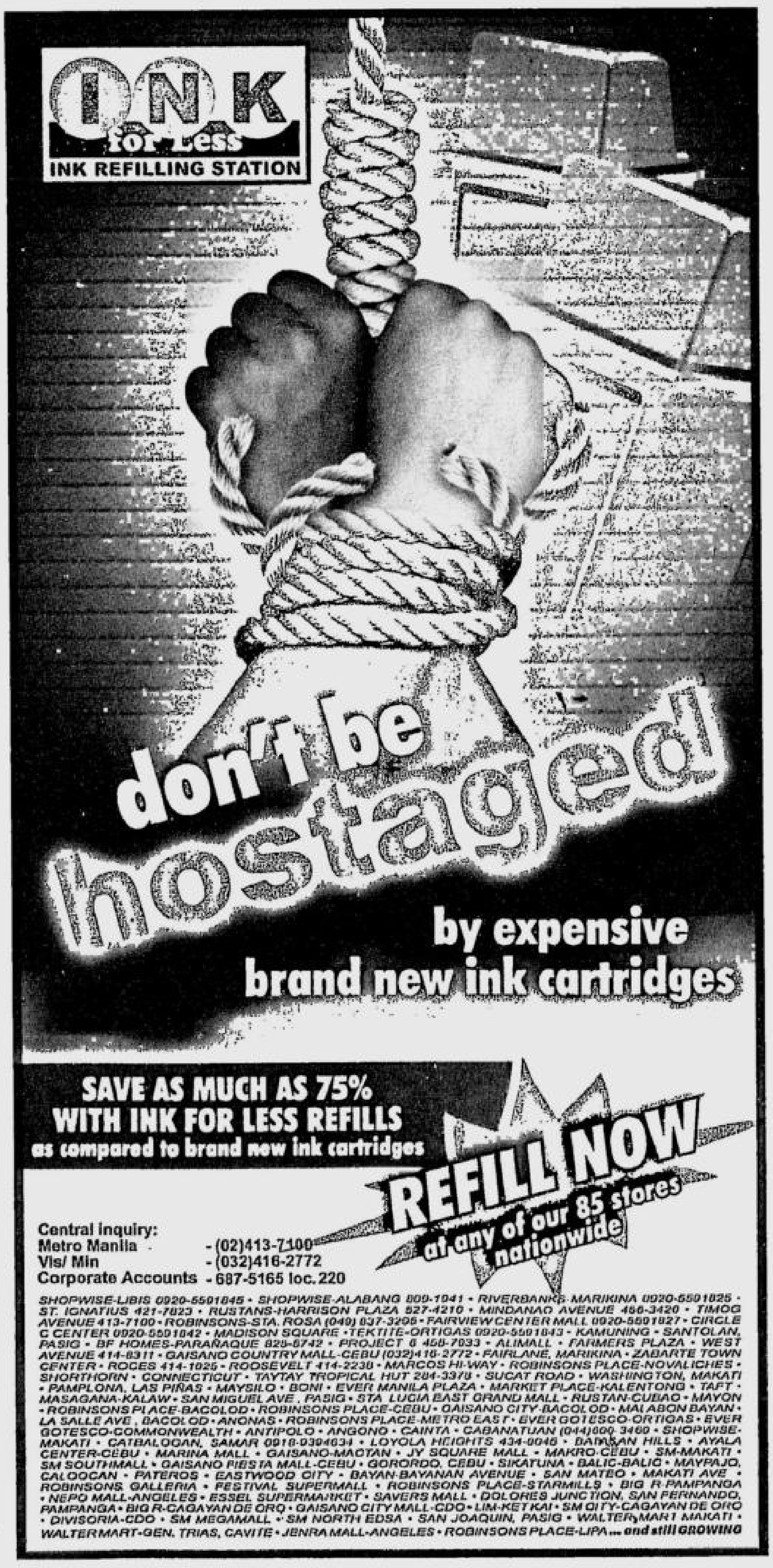
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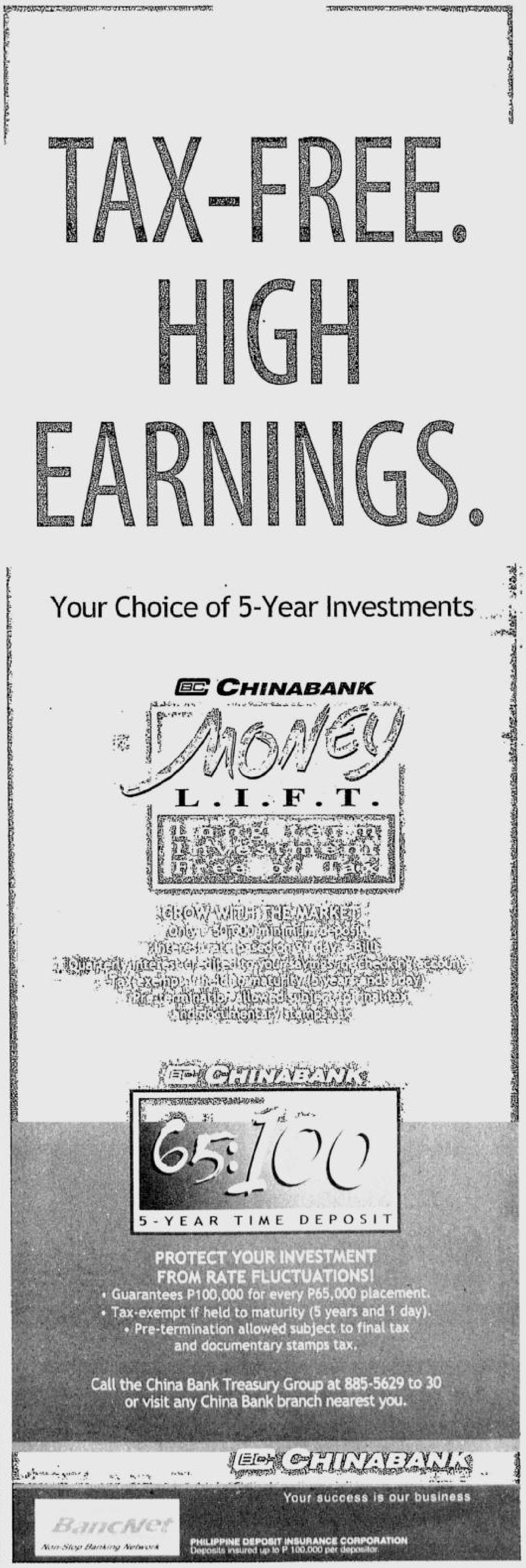
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AMC declares dividends

ALASKA Milk Corp. (AMC) has, for the fourth consecutive year, declared a P0.25 per share special cash dividend on top of its regular P0.05 per share cash dividend to shareholders or an aggregate of P0.30 per share. In the last three years, the company's cash dividend yield averaged 14 percent yearly, the highest by far in the Philippine stock market today.

AMC will pay the cash dividends quarterly beginning June 30, 2003 to March 30, 2004.

During the company's annual stockholders' meeting held recently, AMC president and chief operating officer Wilfred Steven Uytengsu said Alaska's net income grew 132 percent last year to P439 million from P189 million in 2001. He attributed the profit increase largely to improved sales of powdered milk and UHT milk products. Operating income reached P544 million, triple the previous year's level of P147 million.

Electronics firms bullish on RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MULTINATIONAL chip and electronic products makers are expected to invest between $300 million and $400 million in the Philippines this year as they spread out their capital infusion in the region.

Norberto Viera, president of the Semiconductor and Electronic Industries Association of the Philippines and Texas Instrument Philippines Inc., said most of the new investments in the Philippines were for sensitive products that require stable supply schedules.

The outbreak of the SARS virus this year had underscored the risks for semiconductor and electronic firms of putting all their eggs in one basket. The killer pneumonia has jolted them into diversifying their production bases in the region, which were largely concentrated in China over the past years because of its cheap labor and huge domestic market.

Viera said Texas Instruments alone had spent $35 million so far this year to modify and expand its Baguio factory to accommodate the increased volume of orders for its chips.

Viera said fresh capital investments should lead to higher growth rates for the country's biggest export commodity.

Seipi is expecting exports of semiconductors and electronic goods to jump by 10 percent this year to $26 billion or double the projected 5-percent growth of the country's total exports. Texas Instruments expects its exports to increase by 13 percent to $2.5 billion this year.

Last year, Seipi adopted a development roadmap that would guide the industry and the government in quadrupling electronic exports to $100 billion and boosting the industry workforce by three-fold to 1 million employees by 2008.

The industry's main strategy is to divert into the Philippines the foreign investments flowing into China by controlling manufacturing costs (such as labor, electricity and taxes); improving the country's image; focusing on electronics manufacturing services (EMS) or the production of electronics assemblies and sub-assemblies for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) development; enhancing allied industries; striving for semiconductor test center excellence and establishing a wafer fabrication facility.

Our meddlesome bishops

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

AS a Catholic, I have the highest regard and respect for the bishops of the Church. They are the successors of the apostles. At the Magisterium, and in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome, they are entrusted with the task of interpreting authentically the Word of God.

On a personal note, the bishops I have come to know over the years have all impressed me with their erudition and piety. My fondest memories are of the late Monsignor Pedro Santos of Nueva Caceres (Naga City) who helped my father slip through the clutches of the Japanese military police towards the end of World War II.

Although Church and State are separate, I accept that bishops remain citizens with all the concomitant political rights, and can speak publicly on matters concerning the state. I also recognize that a bishop's duty to protect his flock goes beyond the church door. But, when a bishop steps out of the church door into the sunlit and mundane world of the laity, he should take great care with what he says and does.

This is the way things are in the lay professions. A practitioner does not stray from his area of expertise. In medicine, doctors stay within their respective lines of specialization. Even in my small world of insurance, experts are careful not to go out of bounds.

About three years ago, a bishop of Nueva Viscaya issued a pastoral letter against mining operations in Zamboanga del Sur. Not only did he step outside his flock, it was clear that he had not read the new mining law, which took Congress nine years to hammer out. It is considered one of the most advanced mining laws in the whole, wide world.

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, head of the Catholic Bishops Conference, recently called for a moratorium of the commercialization of Bt corn.

He took the position of the protesters without looking into the side of the scientists and farmers supporting the commercialization worldwide.

If computerization is beyond him, he should ask a sacristan or coadjutor to learn how to surf the Internet where there are reams of articles on Bt corn and almost any subject under the sun.

Whenever the Armed Forces mount an offensive against the terrorist MILF, there is sure to be an outcry from the bishops for a resumption of peace talks—and a cessation of hostilities.

Archbishop Quevedo the other day called the AFP to go back to the negotiation table with the MILF.

But, as a so-called confidence building measure, he suggested, as in previous occasions, that the AFP halt the ongoing offensive. He waved a letter from the MILF, which he said proved that the MILF is sincere in seeking peace. If he went to media without first passing on the letter to the AFP for evaluation, that was not nice of him.

Besides, what is there to talk about? The MILF will never be allowed to set up a separate and independent state, continue with their terrorist attacks, and keep their arms.

The call for a ceasefire is always unfair on our soldiers. As in the past, a ceasefire gives the MILF time to regroup, rearm and retrain.

When fighting resumes, as it always does, our soldiers are faced with a stronger and revitalized enemy. The blood of our soldiers can squarely be laid down at the feet of such bleeding hearts as Archbishop Quevedo, whose naivete is simply beyond belief.

The bishops used to stay in their convents and palaces while the world around them was in turmoil. Then, they found their voices. I am grateful for that. In a democracy, everyone, including bishops, has to be heard. But when bishops speak on matters that are outside the Bible and the Great Traditions, I expect them to use the same discernment and circumspection they carry when deliberating at the Magisterium. Otherwise, they are merely being meddlesome.

Speculating banks warned

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is readying stiff sanctions on banks and companies caught using forward contracts to speculate against the peso.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the BSP supervision and examination sector (SES) and the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) were now working on a new set of guidelines on forward contracts, which should be ready in the next 30 days.

"We want to come out with appropriate penalties for the banks and/or the clients who use it for speculative purposes—those who just buy and then cancel the contracts," Buenaventura said in an interview.

"The whole idea is—we would like to give this facility to people with legitimate exposure so we want an agreement (with the BAP)," he said.

Until the guidelines are ready, he said the BSP would not lift the six-month restriction on the maturity of forwards, or contracts to buy and sell at a fixed price for settlement at a future date.

Prior to the six-month restriction on forwards slapped by the BSP a few months ago, some contracts lasted for years.

"We are still talking to the BAP to come up with the mechanics to make sure that this is really for hedging of legitimate obligations and not used for speculative purposes," Buenaventura said.

Cocktales . . .

From page B3

fic and they don't know, how corny it may sound, the way to San Jose.

SARS bargains

THE SARS scare in the region may now be abating, but SARS-related bargains still abound for the intrepid and stout-hearted travelers.

Here are a few of them:

- Manila travel agents are offering a four-day package to Hong Kong, airfare and hotel room included, for a jaw-dropping $128/person via Cathay Pacific. That's even cheaper than flying to and staying in Cebu or Davao.

But judging from the number of CX flights from Manila to the Chinese territory, now still reduced to two daily instead of the pre-SARS six, the offer is not exactly a resounding success.

- AMERICAN Airlines is keeping quiet about it, but the financially strapped airline is offering until the end of this month a $550-roundtrip economy fare to Los Angeles from Manila. American, which does not fly to Manila, is offering the Manila-Tokyo leg in conjunction with Japan Airlines.
- FOR those pining for summer days and wishing to escape Manila's killer typhoons and floods, Northwest Airlines has a $990-roundtrip economy fare to the US East Coast. The ticket is valid until July 15 departure, with return date completed within 90 days.

A year ago, that same ticket cost $1,223, according to Gina Campos, Northwest general sales agency manager.

- AND for those looking for action closer to home, the brand-new, three-star The Pearl Manila, at the corner of Taft and United Nations avenues, is offering a 12-hour "SARS package" for P1,200, SARS being, according to S. Cuttle Butt, Spousal Avoidance Room Service.

The Pearl is being operated by Genesis Hotels, a management company headed by Miguel Cerqueda, the Spanish general manager of The Manila Hotel when the latter was still, well, The Queen of The Bay.

Accelerating Accord

AFTER an absence since January because of model change, Accord is once again available locally.

Honda will today formally introduce to the local market, rather belatedly, the new Accord, hoping that it being named Japanese car of the year for 2002 and 2003 would give the aspirational luxury sedan added boost to finally overtake market leaders Toyota Camry and Nissan Cefiro.

Unfortunately, because the excise tax fog has yet to lift, Honda spokesperson Arnel Doria could not give even a range of price for the two-liter sedan.

Still, depending on which lobby the congressional bicameral conference committee gives in to, you just might get a newer, peppier, sharper sedan for less than what you actually paid for your jalopy.

Heard through the grapevine

THE Wack Wack Golf and Country Club is taking the judicial route in resolving the Greg Yu incident.

The Wack Wack board headed by Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos decided to set aside the recommendation of the usually powerful membership committee to expel plastics king William Gatchalian for having allegedly struck Yu.

(Gatchalian claims he had been provoked into "poking" a golf club on Yu's leg.)

Instead, Yu and Gatchalian and their respective counsels are being now summoned by Abalos, an ex-judge, for a courtroom-like hearing to resolve the complaint.

Like election cases, the case, plus the expected judicial appeal, is expected to be resolved in four years, optimistic scenario.

Worst-case scenario? Yu and Gatchalian's grandchildren will inherit their elders' club shares with the case still hanging. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

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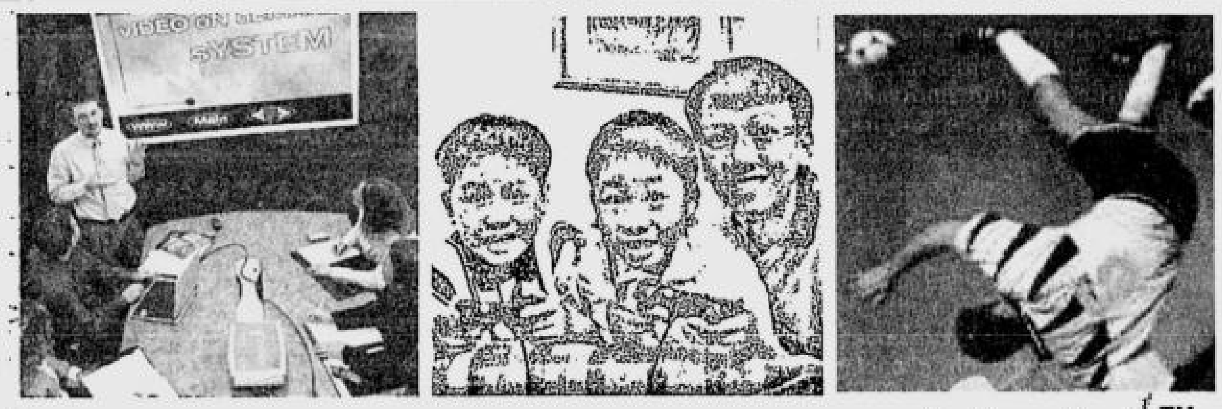

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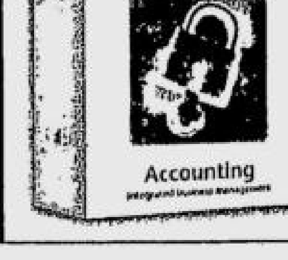

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Toyota AUV export plan hangs on Revo sales hike

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp., the country's largest vehicle assembler, will export fully-assembled Asian utility vehicles (AUV) only if domestic sales of its Tamaraw Revo increases five-fold.

In a phone interview, TMPC senior vice president Serafin Pantaleon said that without a strong domestic base, the export of completely built up (CBU) models would be short-lived and would only be propped up by government subsidies.

Pantaleon said the Sta. Rosa, Laguna plant currently produces an average of 1,000 Tamaraw Revo units a month and it would need to approximate Toyota Indonesia's monthly production of 5,000 AUVs to make the export of fully assembled AUVs viable.

Pantaleon said a vehicle assembler must first have a large domestic market base in order to achieve economies of scale before it could even consider shipping out to other countries that have much bigger vehicle markets.

The Philippines has the smallest market among Asean's top four vehicle-making countries.

Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia have automotive markets that are four to six times bigger than the Philippines.

Pantaleon said no amount of subsidy could cover for the Philippines' puny domestic market.

Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc., which ranks 6th in terms of sales among local assemblers, has promised to invest $150 million in its Laguna factory to produce more CBU vehicles for export on condition that the government subsidizes these shipments.

The subsidies will be in the form of tax credits that assemblers can use to offset taxes on locally-sold cars.

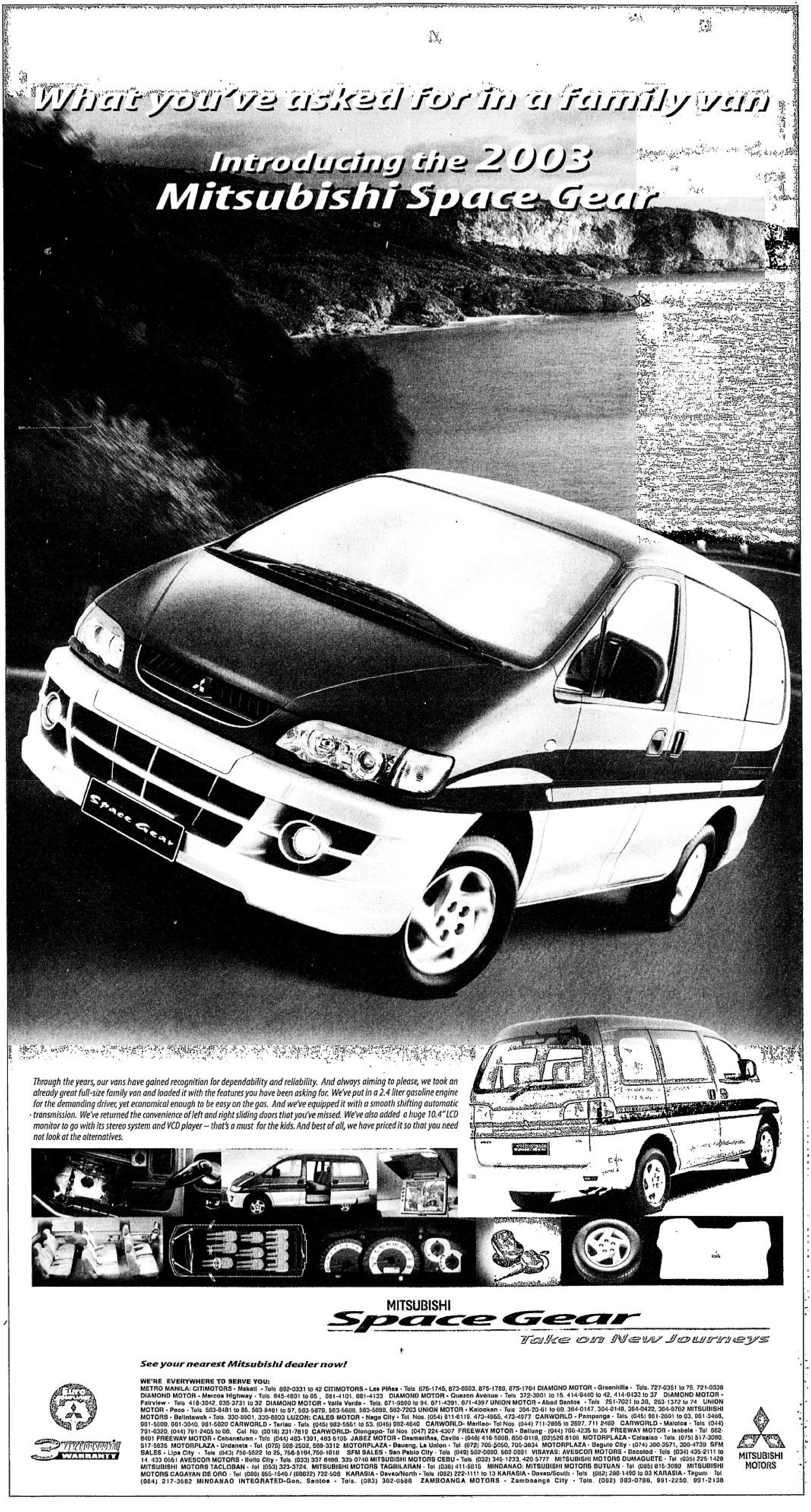
Pantaleon said it was unlikely that the government would maintain an export subsidy program for Philippine assemblers beyond two to three years because of the World Trade Organization's restrictions on trade-distorting subsidies.

The Philippines is currently exempted from this restriction because its per capita income is below $1,000.

"Once our economy improves, the Philippines can only ask for a two-year extension to give the export subsidies," Pantaleon said.

Pantaleon added that TMPC's strategy was to build up its automotive parts supply production in the country while it waits for the automotive market to reach the targeted 200,000 to 250,000-unit-per-year level.

This was why it was important for the government to encourage sales of new vehicles by keeping automotive taxes to a minimum especially for AUVs and entry-level car models and imposing a strict ban on the importation and sale of used vehicles.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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Low-cost housing developer sets IPO

By Elena R. Torrijos

A LOW-COST housing developer has become the third company to apply with the Philippine Stock Exchange for an initial public offering this year and listing on the exchange's secondary board.

Supercity Realty Development Corp., which is headed by its chief executive Arthur Lim, seeks to raise P50 million to P55 million through an IPO of 50 million common shares. The stocks will be priced from P1 to P1.10 per share.

Based in Ortigas center, the company last year posted a net income of P5.79 million and total revenue of P281 million. It currently has 60 million outstanding shares.

Supercity has housing projects in the Calabarzon area and overseas Filipino workers are its primary markets.

Abacus Capital and Investment Corp. has been hired as underwriter for the property firm's public offering.

The two other companies that have also filed for an IPO with the PSE this year included online venture capital broker Cashrounds Inc. and satellite service provider Transpacific Broadcast Group International Inc.

TBGI also aims to list on the PSE's secondary board and offer to the public 69.6 million common shares with the offer price ranging from P1.18 to P1.48 each.

A subsidiary of businessman Arsenio Ng's publicly listed ATN Holdings Inc., TBGI said it would provide Internet connectivity all over the Philippines. The company has a license to operate a satellite earth station for commercial telecommunications and television broadcast.

The IPO application of Cashrounds is seen to be approved by the PSE board soon.

Gov't sees . . .

From page B1

of Energy and Psalm.

The negotiations are part of government initiatives in reviewing Napocor's contracts with IPPs, most of which have been found to have legal and financial issues that had to be resolved.

The DOE and Psalm are leading the second-phase review of 22 IPP contracts, following the first phase conducted by a finance department-led, inter-agency committee.

These are the contracts for the Navotas gas turbine Units 1-3, Mindanao power barges, Ormat binary cycle, Iligan I diesel, Iligan II diesel, Subic diesel, Bauang diesel, Bataan Epza plant, San Pascual cogeneration, Ilijan natural gas, Mindanao geothermal, Pagbilao coal, Pinamucan diesel, Leyte-Cebu geothermal, Naga coal, Leyte-Luzon geothermal, Mindanao I geothermal, Malaya thermal, Zamboanga diesel, General Santos diesel, Bakun hydroelectric and Mindanao coal.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, May 30, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	15.25	16.25	15.25	16.25	335,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	37	38.5	37	37	697,500
China Banking Corp.	700	700	700	700	1,310
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	25	25	23.75	23.75	326,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	26.5	25.5	25.5	1,486,800
Philippine National Bank	20.5	20.5	19	19	459,800
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	28	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	10	10	10	10	123,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.5	21,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	294,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1420	1420	1420	1420	800
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1050	1050	1050	1050	1,080
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	13.75	13.75	13	13	8,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.73	0.73	0.71	0.72	4,300,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	600	615	595	610	207,700
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.038	0.039	4,400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	2,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.7	2.75	2.7	2.75	20,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	1,260,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	140,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	432.5	437.5	432.5	432.5	241,940
Ivantage Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	450,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	14,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	6.1	6.1	6	6	283,000
Manila Electric Co. B	9.1	9.1	8.9	8.9	499,000
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.8	1.8	4,934,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.56	1.6	1.56	1.56	770,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.44	2.46	2.44	2.46	129,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	20,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.75	1,330,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.55	2.6	2.55	2.6	81,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25.5	26	25.5	26	129,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.25	2,947,100
RFM Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.67	130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	55	53.5	55	382,600
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	63.5	63	63.5	605,900
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.05	4.1	3,158,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.2	4.35	4.2	4.35	8,424,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	.0250	0.025	0.024	0.024	4,200,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.86	1.88	385,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	.1400	0.14	0.14	0.14	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	.2700	0.29	0.27	0.28	21,870,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	.2000	0.2	0.19	0.195	700,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	50,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	613,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	.1800	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
Keppel Holdings B	7600	0.76	0.76	0.76	40,000
Megaworld Corp.	5600	0.56	0.54	0.56	3,730,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.1750	0.175	0.165	0.165	1,540,000
Music Corp.	2900	0.29	0.29	0.29	500,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	.8400	0.84	0.84	0.84	270,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	.2600	0.26	0.26	0.26	550,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	4,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	70,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	4,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.68	1.74	1.68	1.74	200,000
Pryce Corp.	1150	0.115	0.115	0.115	2,400,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.5	46,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	4100	0.43	0.41	0.43	8,020,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	.3100	0.35	0.31	0.32	440,000
Manila Jockey Club	8	8	8	8	46,000
Mondragon Intl Phils, Inc.	.2300	0.23	0.23	0.23	300,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	3500	0.4	0.35	0.4	1,140,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	13.75	14	13	13	281,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
WGA - Preferred	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5	5	5	5	312,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.95	5	4.95	5	14,964,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.18	210,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	1,500,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	50,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.83	0.84	0.83	0.83	20,050,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.12	2.14	2.12	2.14	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8	9,667,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	7,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	4,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0040	.004	.0038	.0038	12,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	23,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	5,000,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	1,000,000

CURRENCIES

June 1, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.840054	1.000000	53.282000
Japan	Yen	0.007110	0.008464	0.451000
United Kingdom	Pound	1.388693	1.653100	88.080500
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107725	0.128236	6.832700
Switzerland	Franc	0.654451	0.779059	41.509800
Canada	Dollar	0.613716	0.730567	38.926100
Singapore	Dollar	0.486988	0.579710	30.888100
Australia	Dollar	0.544006	0.647585	34.504600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.228378	2.652661	141.339100
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.224009	0.266660	14.208200
Brunei	Dollar	0.485580	0.578035	30.798900
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000120	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.020112	0.023941	1.275600
UAE	Dirham	0.228729	0.272279	14.507600
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.190400	63.426900
Argentina	Peso	0.291685	0.347222	18.500700
Brazil	REAL	0.285538	0.339905	18.110800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134505	0.160115	8.531200
India	Rupee	0.017892	0.021299	1.134900
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.221096	0.263193	14.023400
Mexico	New Peso	0.081503	0.097021	5.169500
New Zealand	Dollar	0.483290	0.575308	30.653600
Norway	Kroner	0.126783	0.150923	8.041500
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014622	0.017406	0.927400
South Africa	Rand	0.103869	0.123646	6.588100
Korea	Won	0.000696	0.000829	0.044200
Sweden	Kroner	0.109170	0.129956	6.924300
Syria	Pound	0.020002	0.023810	1.268600
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024244	0.028860	1.537700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000527	0.000627	0.033400

Stocks

From page B1

infused into the financial system three weeks ago when certain government securities matured and these funds were shifted into stocks as yields in the fixed income market was low.

The benchmark 91-day treasury bill yield fell for a second time at the government's bi-weekly auction, declining to 6.302 percent from 6.842 percent in its previous auction.

The markets have been speculating that interest rates may still go lower as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) may decide to lower their overnight rates due to the prevailing low inflation rate.

Based on technical analysis, BPI Trade noted that the main composite opened higher with a gap and if the market sustained this, it would suggest strength.

"The Phisix, however, still needs to break the resistance at 1,086 to establish a new higher high and to set a bullish tone," the securities firm said. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Asian central banks to launch $1-B fund

From page B1

did not prove useful when Asian currencies were on a simultaneous decline.

Specifically, it seeks to reduce the mismatch between the currency and maturing foreign borrowings, thereby weeding out pressures that can cause a sharp currency freefall.

After the peso tumbled from a 26:$1 level against the US dollar in 1997, for instance, a lot of Philippine companies with dollar borrowings were badly hit and had to seek a debt restructuring or even a moratorium on payments.

The proponents of the fund believed that the regional bond market would not improve unless there were investors willing to buy debt papers. The fund is thus envisioned to act as a catalyst that can stimulate investor appetite by pioneering investments in bonds.

The fund also seeks to reduce risks of sudden changes in capital flows—the main culprit during the Asian crisis of 1997—by reducing over-reliance on bank loans and providing a steady flow of capital.

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CELEB (CORP)	Call now	TAG HLANDS	Call now	FOREST HILLS "A"	150K
EAGLE RIDGE "A"	270K	ORCHARD "B"	Call now	MLA POLO	Call now
FOREST HILLS "A"	200K	RIVIERA "A"	Call now	MKTI SPORTS "A"	250K
MLA GOLF (INDIV)	Call now	PUNTA FUEGO	550K	STA ELENA "A"	1.35M
MLA POLO	2.5M	QC SPORTS "A"	200K	TAG MIDLANDS	Call now
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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	620,000	750,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	Please Call	-
Camp John Hay	-	230,000
Canlubang	450,000	500,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	110,000	135,000
Cebu Country Club	Please Call	-
Celebrity Sports Club	170,000	180,000
Club Filipino	110,000	180,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	160,000	185,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	190,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	230,000	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	-	2,450,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	550,000
Manila Southwoods "B"		600,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	500,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	135,000
Metropolitan Club "B"		150,000
Mimosa (Individual)	-	120,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	260,000	300,000
Montemar (Individual)	35,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	300,000
Mt. Malarayat (Corporate)		450,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	165,000	200,000
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Royale Tagaytay "A"		Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"		75,000
Sherwood Hills "B"		180,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	200,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,250,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,600,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	390,000	430,000
Tagaytay Highlands	700,000	800,000
Tagaytay Midlands	660,000	745,000
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Valley Golf	280,000	300,000
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Camp John Hay Golf	220,000	Manila Polo	2,250,000	Subic Yacht Ind./Corp.	Please call
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	250/240/400	Manila Southwoods A	480,000	Tagaytay Midland	700
Fontana D	50,000	Mimosa	140	Valle Verde CC	140
		Riviera A	130	Wack Wack	6.450M
BUYING					
Baguio Country Club	600,000	Manila Golf (Cor)	11M	Quezon City Sports	175
Canlubang Golf	450,000	Manila Polo	2,200,000	Royale Tagaytay	70
Capitol Hills	130,000	Manila Southwoods "A"	450,000	Sta. Elena A/B	Please call
Celebrity	175,000	Mt. Malarayat "A"	270/Please call	Tagaytay Highland Golf/Club	750/510
Manila Golf (Indv)	10.3M	Mimosa Indiv/Corp	120/270	Valley Golf	270
		Orchard "A"	165/190	Wack Wack	6,325,000

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Alabang Country Club B	1,500,000	-
Baguio Country Club	-	590,000
Camp John Hay	220,000	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	180,000	Pls. Call
Capitol Hills	-	110,000
Calatagan Golf Club A/B**	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	150,000
Club Filipino	170,000	130,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	200,000/450,000**	220,000
Eastridge B	130,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	220,000*/250,000**	175,000/220,000**
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	-	11,000,000*
Manila Polo	2,500,000	-
Makati Sports Club A/B*	-	200,000
Manila Yacht Club	510,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	540,000	450,000
Metropolitan Club	100,000	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	-	95,000/260,000*
Montemar Beach Club	-	15,000
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	370,000	-
Orchard Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	500,000	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club A	220,000	-
Riviera Golf A/C*	280,000*	-
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	Pls. Call*	-
Sherwoods A/B*/C**	90,000/Pls. Call*	70,000**
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	-	1,275,000
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	160,000	-
Subic Golf	Pls. Call	-
Tagaytay Country Club	370,000	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	800,000	750,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	680,000
Valley Golf & CC	300,000	250,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	150,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	6,500,000	-

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FOREST HILLS "A"	–	155K
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	–	210K
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	–	10.3M
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)	11M	–
MANILA POLO CLUB	–	2.250M
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	470K	450K
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	600K	–
METRO CLUB		90K
MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB		30K
PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB		90K
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB		175K
ROYALE TAGAYTAY	–	65K
SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	140K	125K
SHERWOOD HILLS "C"	100K	–
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "B"	please call	1.4M
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	–	700K
VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	–	250K
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	6.5M	–

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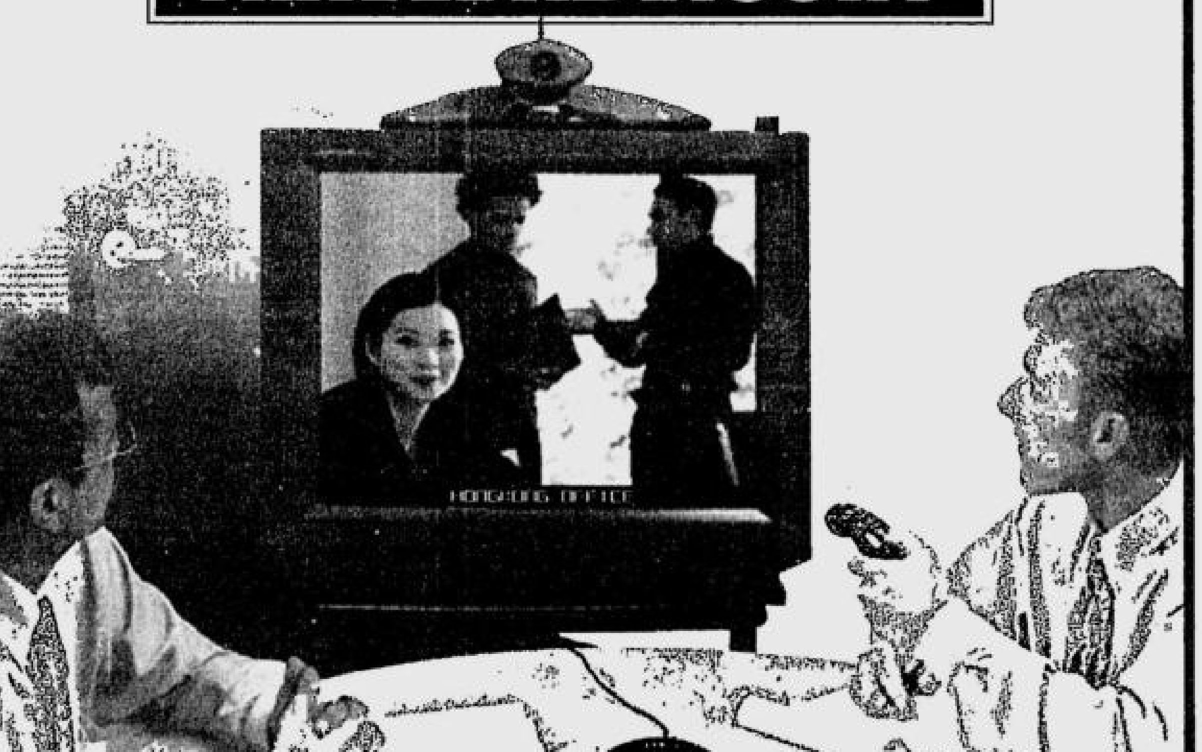

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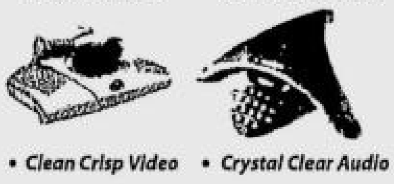

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Merger talks between cable companies collapse

By Abigail L. Ho

MERGER talks between dominant cable operator Beyond Cable Holdings Inc. and Destiny Cable Inc. have collapsed due to "certain critical financial issues" that the two parties failed to resolve.

Destiny Cable spokesperson Beda Mañalac said in a statement that while due-diligence audit on both cable companies' books had already been concluded as early as March, the two parties never resolved certain issues involving the business valuation.

"We feel that joining the consortium of Beyond Cable at this time would not be beneficial to the long-term viability of Destiny Cable and likewise run contrary to the general interest of our subscribers as well as stockholders," he said.

An industry source disclosed that valuation problems stemmed from the two companies' difference in debt levels. Beyond Cable has about P2.5 billion in debts, while Destiny Cable was virtually debt-free.

The Beyond Cable consortium, composed of dominant players SkyCable Central CATV Inc. and Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc., proposed to Destiny Cable that they explore the possibility of consolidating their operations late last year.

The offer came shortly after program provider Star Group Ltd. removed five of its top-rating shows—ESPN, Star Sports, Star World, Star Movies and National Geographic—from Destiny Cable's line-up.

The industry grapevine then became rife with talks that Beyond Cable had struck an agreement with Star Group for the exclusive carriage of some of its programs in the Philippine cable television market.

These speculation, numerous complaints from Destiny Cable's subscribers and a clamor from some consumer interest groups led the National Telecommunications Commission to look more deeply into Star Group's sudden decision to pull out its five top-rating programs from Destiny Cable's line-up. The cable operator described this move by the program provider as "arbitrary."

The NTC then came out with initial guidelines for program providers doing business in the country. According to the draft implementing rules and regulations, program providers must first register with the NTC to get proper accreditation to conduct business with local cable operators.

Program providers without proper accreditation would not be allowed to deal with local cable operators, the rules stated.

Also, foreign program providers should maintain a satellite office here with an in-country agent.

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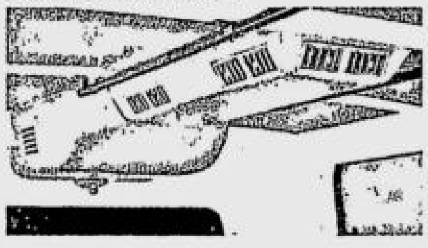

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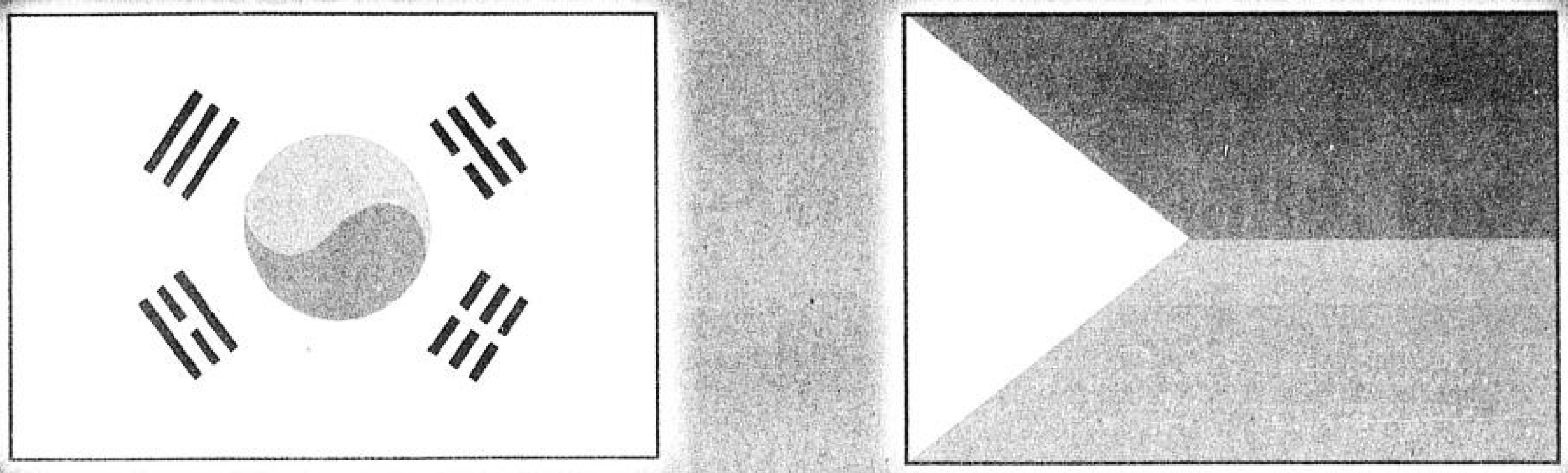

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ADB to revive $175-M grains sector loan

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE ASIAN Development Bank is considering reviving the $175-million Grains Sector Development Program (GSDP) for the Philippines and is now willing to compromise on some of the conditions that the country finds difficult to meet, including the liberalization of the rice sector.

ADB officials have informed the Philippine government about the bank's willingness to resume financing the grains development program of the country, Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. told reporters last week.

Lorenzo said that this time, ADB was willing to forego certain loan conditions and to consider the Philippine government's proposals.

"Maybe the ADB officials realized that we (the Philippine government) have already gone this far and that they no longer have to require us to meet certain conditions, such as the privatization of NFA (National Food Authority)," Lorenzo said.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary for policy and planning Segfredo R. Serrano said in another interview that the DA and the ADB were targeting to hold and complete the renegotiation for the loan program before the end of this semester.

An ADB official confirmed that a study on the program's restoration was ongoing.

"It is still under review. We don't want to give any comment until its completion," the ADB official said.

The GSDP originally carried several conditions, three of which the government had found difficult to comply with. These are the passage of a law lifting the quantitative restrictions on rice trading/importation; setting the government's buying support price for palay at a fixed rate and the privatization of state-owned trading firm NFA.

The restoration of the ADB funding for the GSDP is expected to boost the Philippine government's budgetary requirement and provide extensive support for the local rice sector. The ADB loan was earmarked for major irrigation programs, which are necessary in supporting the Department of Agriculture's (DA) hybrid rice program, and the establishment of the Rice Biotechnology Center and the Philippine Corn Research Institute.

Next Mobile withdraws offer to buy 70% stake in Capwire

By Abigail L. Ho

TRUNK radio operator Next Mobile Phil. Inc. has withdrawn its proposal to buy into Capitol Wireless.

A source familiar with the matter said Next Mobile had sent a letter to Capwire chair Jose Luis Santiago saying that Next Mobile wanted to get out of the memorandum of understanding it signed with Capwire.

The MOU contained Next Mobile's intention to acquire a 70-percent stake in Capwire.

Next Mobile said Capwire's creditor-banks were not in favor of a relationship between the international gateway facility operator and the trunk radio service provider at this time.

Capwire's creditors include Export and Industry Bank, Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, Philippine National Bank, United Overseas Bank, Bank of the Philippine Islands and Manulife.

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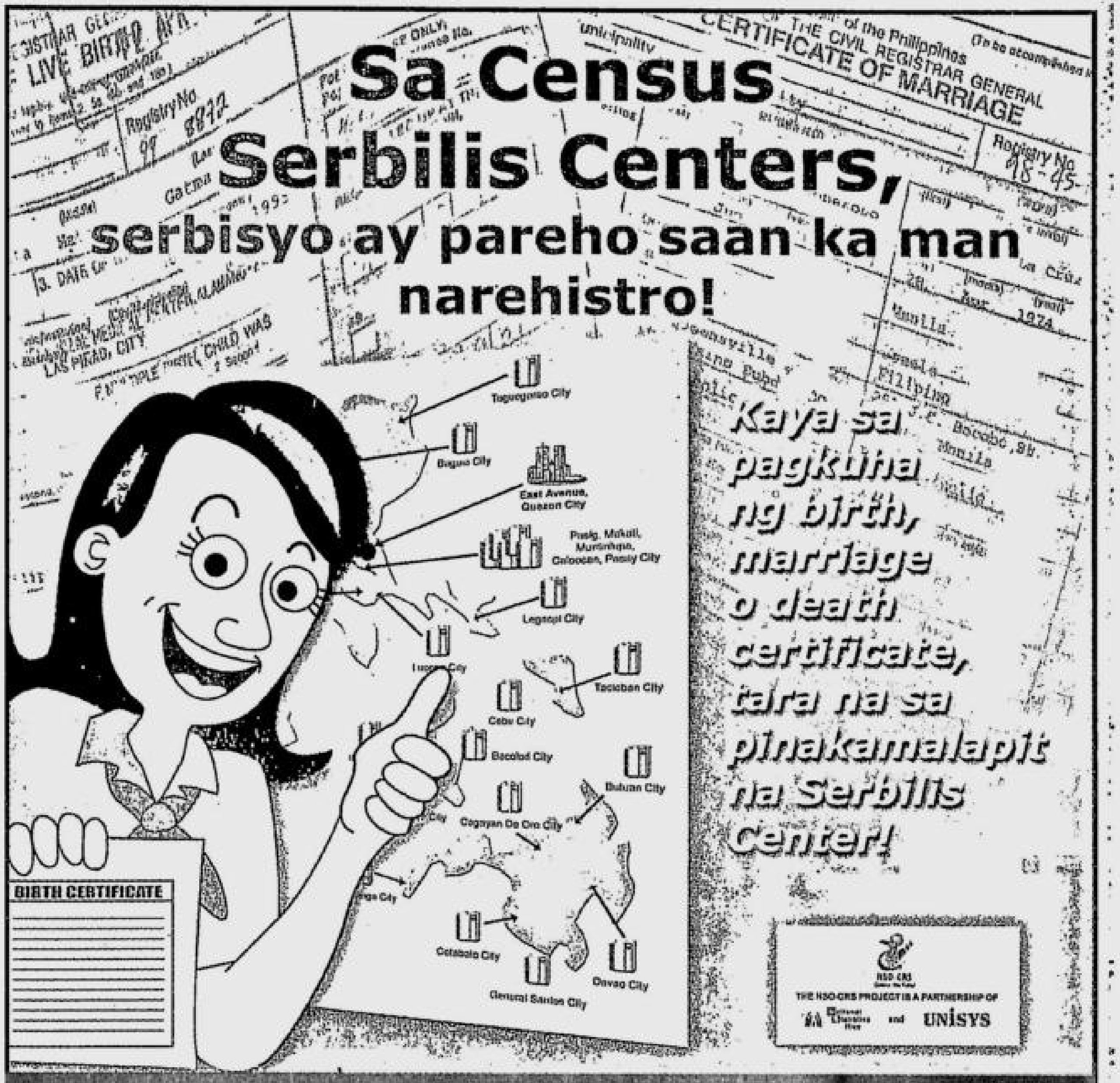

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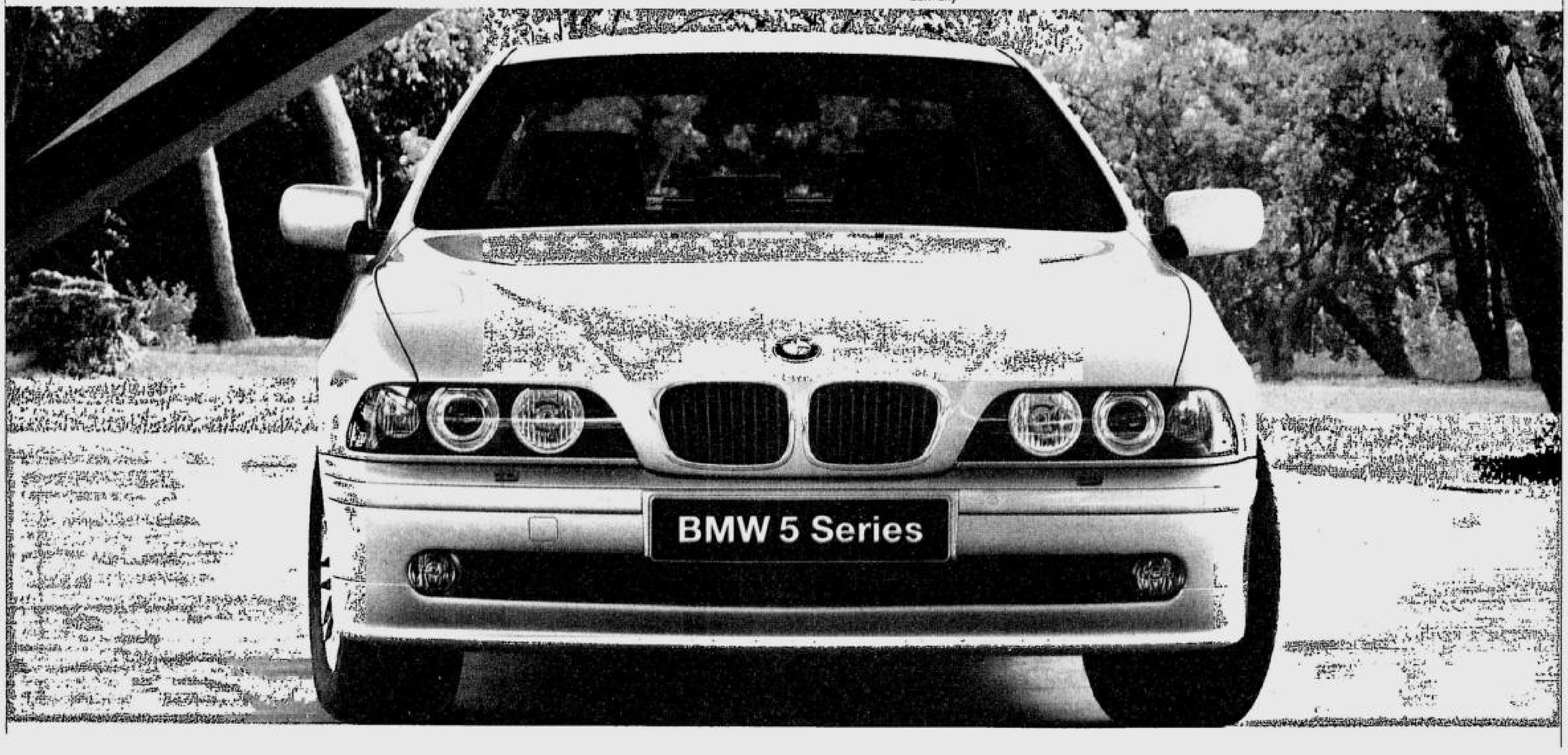

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People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Expanded benefits for Pinoy Health Pass

PINOY Health Pass, a program by the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) in cooperation with the private sector, now has more benefits for its recipients.

PhilHealth offers new services under its indigent program. These latest additions include free primary consultation with the physician and free laboratory examinations for complete blood count, chest X-ray, stool exam urinalysis and sputum microscopy for tuberculosis (TB) suspects and screening for cancer. These services are available in all accredited health centers nationwide.

Other paid benefits offered under the program are available at all PhilHealth accredited hospitals. These services include room and board; services of health care professionals; laboratory and other medical examination services; prescription drugs and biologicals; surgeon and anesthesiologist's fees; and operating room fees. Phase I also includes outpatient benefits for chemotherapy, radiotherapy, hemodialysis, cataract extraction and minor surgical procedures performed in an operating room complex.

Pinoy Health Pass was launched last year to help poor families receive health care through health insurance. A tripartite agreement among PhilHealth, the local government unit and GlaxoSmithKline, Pinoy Health Pass seeks to empower both LGU and beneficiaries to support and avail themselves of the program on a sustained basis. Ultimately, the program aims to enlighten beneficiaries on the importance of health insurances and to always seek professional medical advice, and for LGUs to give priority to their respective health programs.

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E-RECRUITMENT PARTNERS

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. recently tapped the services of JobStreet.com Philippines for the company's online recruitment needs. Shell believes e-recruitment is the most efficient and cost-effective solution to hiring as it allows immediate access to the widest possible pool of talents. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) Malaya Montayre, account manager, JobStreet.com, Kristine Tabuena, customer care manager, JobStreet.com, Joel Esguerra, general manager for human resources, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., and Jerome Nava, recruitment adviser, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.

MARCH 26, 2003
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ACCRALAW SPONSORS SPV LAW SEMINAR

Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz Law Offices (AccraLaw) recently sponsored a seminar for the Special Purpose Vehicle Law for the firm's clients. Shown are (from left) speakers lawyer Benedicto C. Silag of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, AccraLaw of-counsel, former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Efren I. Plana, lawyer Juan de Zuniga of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, AccraLaw co-managing partner, lawyer Francis Ed Lim and AccraLaw senior partner and head of the firm's corporate and special projects department lawyer Tadeo F. Hilado, who was the moderator during the seminar.

Le Pavillon introduces new web address

LE PAVILLON is introducing its new web address www.lepavillon.com.ph for the convenience of people who are interested to know more about the popular events venue. Le Pavillon is strategically located within the Metropolitan Park found along Roxas Boulevard corner Edsa.

The new website showcases Le Pavillon's exciting offerings as well as its various tie-ups in helping turn each gathering into a special event for its clients.

With a grand entrance driveway and spacious reception lobby, Le Pavillon can accommodate 900 guests for a sit-down lunch/dinner. Other facilities include a cocktail bar at the reception area, two well-appointed private dressing rooms equipped with individual toilet and bathroom, wall-to-wall mirrors with vanity lights, adjustable clothes racks and a lounging area, large capacity male and female air-conditioned restrooms, executive and handicap-friendly restrooms and spacious parking areas.

Le Pavillon is perfect for exhibits, products launches, conferences, trade shows, meetings, corporate awards, sporting events, fashion shows, wedding receptions, debuts, birthdays, baptisms, fund raisers, corporate parties, graduations and proms, among others.

For reservations and information about Le Pavillon, interested parties can call 892-6605 or 898-8965 every Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. or on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Ocular visits may also be scheduled with prior appointment. Le Pavillon is another quality project of Federal Land Inc., a member of the Metrobank Group of Companies.

GSIS OPENS OFFICE AT THE MET

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) inaugurated May 13 its Manila district office in the heart of the city of Manila-at the ground floor of the historic Metropolitan Theatre, Liwasang Bonifacio (adjacent to Plaza Lawton and at the foot of Quezon Bridge). The sixth district office established under the leadership of its president and general manager lawyer Winston F. Garcia, it is manned by 84 permanent employees who will service the membership, loans, and claims transactions of about 105,000 government employees in offices situated in Manila. Government retirees/pensioners shall also be served regardless of their previous place of employment. The GSIS is the sole and rightful owner of the MET, as the titles to the property are duly registered to its name.

Jockey's new lines

WHO SAID Jockey was your "grandfather's underwear?" Think again.

Jockey, inventor of briefs, has never ceased to innovate and redefine men's underfashion while maintaining an exceptional level of quality. It has been Jockey's formula in retaining its lead in the industry. Recently, it has successfully launched new product lines with exciting features and styles specifically designed for the young and the young at heart.

The Image Collection introduces exhilarating colors and cuts that are seductive and tasteful yet comfortable and fitting. It is intended for the discriminating, fashionable, elegant and sensual man.

The Stretch briefs are made of cotton fabric blended with Spandex fibers, for exceptional horizontal and vertical stretch so that it conforms to the body's natural contour while it provides total freedom of movement.

The 1876 Gold Edition features a seamless cotton Lycra waistband. The comfortable hug of its waistband lies snug, but soft, on the skin, retaining its unique fit and feel even after repeated washing.

The success of these new lines is a result of Jockey's continuing extensive research and development program that continually seeks ways to satisfy the young's ever shifting tastes in styles and features. The design takes into account the various needs of young men's diverse lifestyles-active, sporty, go-getter, and aggressive among others.

Jockey, likewise, ensures that the brand is synonymous with reliable quality. It sources the finest raw materials from abroad and institutes a strict quality assurance system. It consistently accentuates the importance of quality in its products, which makes it one of the most trusted brands in the world.

Now, do you still think Jockey is only for your grandfather?

SPRINT INT'L GETS SUN LIFE FINANCIAL

Sprint International, distributor of Speedo in the Philippines, recently enlisted Sun Life Financial to provide the company's group life insurance policy. Sprint International recognizes the need to protect its employees through a group insurance policy because every member of Sprint International is vital to ensuring that customers get the same brand of excellent service and quality products that Speedo has been known for. At the contract signing are (seated, from left) Sprint International's export import manager Dharmendra Gupta, Sun Life Financial worksite and institutional accounts officer Ging de Venecia and Sprint International's VP for operations Manish Mahtani. The signatories ate joined by (standing left) Sun Life Financial group marketing manager Rico Rianzares and life underwriter Daisy Tingson.

Product FILES

Samsung's new wireless laser printer

SAMSUNG Electronics' latest advanced laser printer offers convenient features while delivering business cost savings. One important feature is the built-in 802.11b wireless LAN support, which removes the tangle of network printer cables.

The new printer also addresses a key connection issue faced by many users by supporting the USB 2.0 connection, which enables the printer to receive information up to 40 times faster than the conventional 1.1 standard.

Samsung Electronics' ML-2150W is capable of printing up to 20 pages per minute. To support such exceptional printing speed, this printer can store about 1,100 sheets of paper at a time with the optional cassette.

The one-touch toner saving feature makes this printer easy on the pocket. When activated, this function extends the life of the toner cartridge by 40 percent. Double-sided printing is also as easy as a simple touch of a button. For more information, visit www.samsungelectronics.com.

Shoot out challenge at Toby's Arena

YOU THINK you've got game? Then prove it and join the And1 "Get Yours Challenge" at any Toby's Sports Arena. Starting May, contestants can win special prizes from And1 by competing at any of the two games at the Toby's Shootout, the 3-point king and the Stop-and-Pop. All you need is a minimum purchase of P250 at Toby's and you are qualified to join. Toby's will be giving away weekly prizes such as And1 caps, shirts, shorts, and socks. Get the highest score for the month this May and you win a free pair of And1 "Truth Low" basketball shoes worth P4, 445. Winners will automatically qualify for the Toby's shootout all-star competition to be held in November.

Hurry to any Toby's arena branch to join the And1 "Get Yours Challenge". Toby's Sports Arena is located at the 2nd level SM North EDSA Annex, 3rd level, Glorietta 2, 4th level The Podium and the Promenade Alabang Town Center.

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DLSU SIGNS FOR ADVOCACY

Present during the DLSU-College of Saint Benilde and Rotary Club of University District Manila MOA signing for Employment Advocacy for the Deaf Benildeans are (front row, from left), representing the Rotary Club of University District Manila Domingo M. Brum, secretary, William Y. Cua, director of vocational services, Jose U. Sevilla, president. They are followed by representatives from DLSU-CSB: executive vice president Ronald Holmes, vice president for academics Dr. Rose Marie Clemeña and Dean Theresa Christine De La Torre of the School for Deaf Education and Applied Studies (SDEAS). Several Rotary members as well as other SDEAS staff and students also witnessed the event.

Bits Clips

Shooting competition

ST. SCHOLASTICA'S Academy Bacolod batch '79, in cooperation with the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), invites everyone to "Shoot for a Cause", a shooting competition in celebration of Batch '79's 25th anniversary. Beneficiaries of the event include students of the Holy Family Vocational High School, which has offered free education to female students from Sum-ag, Negros Occidental over the past 50 years. Shoot for a Cause is a PPSA Level 2 sanctioned match for pistols with 57 trophies at stake, highlighted with a raffle galore for all participants in the seven-stage competition. The event will be held at the 1911 Gun Club, SEG Firing Range at Fort Bonifacio, Makati City on June 7 and 8. Interested participants and donors can call Ito Lopa at 776-9665, 809-2905 or 0917-5395315, 0920-9058654.

Memorable Bridal fair

COMPLETE Work Inc., an event organizer led by executive producer JP Montilla, recently staged a successful bridal fair and exhibit dubbed "A Wedding" held at Le Pavilion on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. One of the highlights of the event was the lingerie fashion show unfolding the most seductive and sexiest lingerie designed by Shirley Duque-Alejandrino. Over 80 exhibitors were seen, consisting of wedding suppliers, hotels, caterers, and coordinators who showcased their high-quality products and services. JP Montilla can be reached at 0917-5391972.

Hyundai's CLASS 2003

AFTER a fun-filled, out-of-town-galore summer vacation, it's time to go back to class. Make sure your trusted Hyundai vehicle is ready for school by enrolling it in the Hyundai CLASS 2003 (Certified Legitimate After-Sales Service). You can avail yourself of four comprehensive yet affordable packages. Package 1 offers 5-percent discount on mineral engine oil plus free 33 pt. check-up. Package 2 has a 5-percent discount on semi-synthetic engine oil plus free 36 pt. check-up. Package 3 consists of a 5-percent discount fully synthetic engine oil plus free 36 pt. check-up and Hi-Scan Pro Diagnosis. Packages 1 to 3 all come with a 50-percent discount on genuine Hyundai Mobis oil filters and 25-percent discount on labor. Package 4 is a brake check-up that offers 25-percent discount on labor plus free 7 pt. check-up and 20-percent discount on brake pads and brake shoes. You can also get big discounts on Kumho tires. Enrollment is open to all Hyundai Starex, Hyundai Matrix and Hyundai Santa Fe models and runs until June 19. Drive over to your nearest authorized Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. service center today.

LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD

On July 9, 2002, the Supreme Court nullified the contract between Central Bay Reclamation and Development Corporation (formerly Amari) and the Public Estates Authority (PEA) to reclaim some 750 hectares of land from the shores of Manila Bay. Since then, we, the small shareholders of Cyber Bay Corporation, the mother company of Central Bay, have been kept in the dark on whether we can still recover our life savings which we invested in the company. Then came the Resolution of the Supreme Court on May 6, 2003 which denied "with finality" Central Bay's prayer for the court to reconsider its decision.

Where does this leave us?

There were suggestions from some sectors that we have only ourselves to blame because we did not practice due diligence in our investment decision.

May we remind them that what the High Court nullified was an agreement voluntarily entered into by PEA after the scrutiny of various government agencies? Are they now saying that the government should not be trusted or that its word has no authority?

Justice delayed is justice denied, so they say. But in swiftly handling down the landmark ruling -- without even considering the motions for intervention filed by other interested parties -- we have been robbed of the justice we believe we so richly deserve. By nullifying the amended joint venture agreement (JVA), the Supreme Court seems to have made the unfortunate assumption that Central Bay bought the reclaimed lands from the government. But has there been really a sale?

Clearly, there was none.

The amended JVA neither provides for the sale nor transfer of titles of reclaimed lands to Central Bay! The amended JVA is a service contract under which Central Bay has to reclaim and fund the horizontal development of the project. In return, Central Bay should be paid either in cash or a portion of reclaimed lands, an arrangement expressly allowed by law and established practices of the PEA. The mere execution of the amended JVA does not automatically vest in Central Bay title to any of the reclaimed lands or the lands to be reclaimed. If it is unconstitutional to transfer reclaimed lands to Central Bay, then the company can still be paid in cash for its services.

Likewise, we cannot even see which portions of the amended JVA could have been construed as an outright sale of reclaimed lands in favor of Central Bay.
The decision which declared the amended JVA null and void ab initio did not refer to any part of the amended JVA as constituting the supposed Constitutional violation.

Under the 1973 Constitution and again under the 1987 Constitution, lands of the public domain may not be held by private corporations except by lease. This provision is not disputed.

However, the issue is not whether Central Bay, a private corporation, should be allowed to own lands of the public domain.

Specifically, the issue is whether reclaimed lands, particularly those reclaimed under the Manila-Cavite Coastal Road Reclamation Project (MCCRRP), are lands of the public domain so as to be prohibited from being held by private corporations except by lease. Such issue is, as the Decision itself points out, at the very least a question of first impression.

Ever since the Spanish Law of Waters of 1866, the doctrine has been that lands reclaimed by private entities with proper authority by the Government are private lands and belong to those which undertook such reclamation. Clearly, under the Spanish Law of Waters, reclaimed lands are not necessarily lands of the public domain.

While the Public Land Act provided that lands reclaimed by the Government formed part of the alienable lands of the public domain, it was silent on the status of lands reclaimed not by the Government but by private parties on authority of the Government.

This could only mean that the Spanish Law of Waters continues to be the rule on lands reclaimed by private persons, as confirmed by the Supreme Court in Republic v. Court of Appeals, 131 SCRA 532 (1984). Thus, prior to the Decision, it has never been a settled doctrine that all reclaimed lands, particularly those reclaimed by private parties, necessarily form part of lands of the public domain.

In fact, the MCCRRP had its origins in 1973, when the Government allowed the reclamation of lands along Manila Bay to be undertaken by the Construction and Development Corporation of the Philippines (CDCP), a private corporation, and agreed that 50% of the total lands reclaimed by CDCP be transferred to it as payment for its reclamation services.

It is clear, therefore, that reclaimed lands are not necessarily lands of the public domain.

Thus, the time-honored doctrines promulgated by the Supreme Court on the prospective application of a new doctrine should apply to the amended JVA. Otherwise, to single out Central Bay's contract with PEA and declare it null and void ab initio would violate the company's constitutional right to the equal protection of our laws.

The Decision of July 9, 2002 has itself stated that the issue of whether reclaimed lands are lands of the public domain is one of first impression. Thus, before the Decision of July 9, 2002, there were no other definitive interpretations of the reclamation laws, other than the opinion, review and approval of the Executive Department, including two past Presidents, on the legality of the amended JVA.

Many contractors, like Central Bay, have poured investments into their projects relying in good faith upon Government approvals, applicable statutes, and past practices of the PEA. Indeed, their rights have become vested.

So, if the High Court wishes to adopt an interpretation different from that made by the Executive Department, then such adoption should not cover projects that had been either completed or are in the process of completion before the July 9, 2002 Decision. Each and every Government contract should apparently now be reviewed and approved not only by the Executive Department, but by the Judicial Department; otherwise, interpretations and opinions of Government agencies, including laws passed by Congress which allow reclamation contractors to be paid with reclaimed lands, do not appear to have any value at all.

The retroactive application of a law usually divests rights that have already become vested or impairs the obligations of contract and, hence, is unconstitutional.
Thus, new doctrines should be applied prospectively and should not apply to parties who had relied on the old doctrine and acted on the faith thereof.

In fact, lands reclaimed or to be reclaimed under the MCCRRP belong to a class of their own since there are special laws specifically applicable to them, namely, PD 1084, PD 1085, EO 525, and EO 654. These decrees empower PEA to transact on, deal in, dispose of, or contract out any matter pertaining to reclaimed lands.
The Decision strips the PEA of such authority, effectively declaring such laws as unconstitutional as well. This being so, the Decision should be applied prospectively.

Furthermore, PD 1084, PD 1085, EO 525, and EO 654 can even be viewed as the very laws required to covert lands of the public domain into alienable and disposable lands.

Contrary to the pronouncements in the Decision, properties owned by a Government-owned and/or -controlled corporation, such as the PEA, in the exercise of its proprietary functions, are considered private lands.

Since the MCCRRP originated from the 1973 contract between the Philippine Government and CDCP in which CDCP would be paid 50% of the total lands reclaimed for CDCP's reclamation services, the lands to be reclaimed under the MCCRRP, including any of its extensions, have always been intended to be private and, therefore, disposable in favor of private corporations such as the CDCP.

Every step of the way, road blocks have been thrown by vested interested groups to thwart the implementation of this project. In fact, the project has been so peppered with charges of corruption which all emanated from earlier Senate investigations. Formal charges were filed by the Ombudsman in the proper courts, and the respondents have been cleared after hearings were conducted on the merits.

Such charges of corruption have never even been an issue in this case. To be influenced by these charges without appropriate proceedings would undoubtedly violate the constitutional right to due process, a right of higher order in the hierarchy of other constitutional precepts, including the Constitutional provisions invoked in the Decision of 9 July 2002.

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DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF USED AND EMPTY STEEL DRUMS

"as is, where is and take all"
DATE OF BIDDING: JUNE 19, 2003, AT 2:00 PM

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the drums at the following locations:

LOCATION		QUANTITY	FLOOR PRICE
1.	BASCO Diesel Plant	348 pcs.	P15,225.00 / lot
2.	BOAC Diesel Plant	101 pcs.	4,425.00 / lot
3.	CALAPAN Diesel Plant	667 pcs.	29,173.00 / lot
4.	CALAYAN Diesel Plant	10 pcs.	425.00 / lot
5.	CASIGURAN Diesel Plant	150 pcs.	65,275.00 / lot
6.	ITBAYAN Diesel Plant	15 pcs.	650.00 / lot
7.	TORRIJOS Diesel Plant	5 pcs.	225.00 / lot
8.	AGUTAYA Diesel Plant	180 pcs.	7,875.00 / lot
9.	ARACELI Diesel Plant	410 pcs.	17,925.00 / lot
10.	BALABAC Diesel Plant	200 pcs.	8,750.00 / lot
11.	BROOKES POINT Diesel Plant	10 pcs.	425.00 / lot
12.	BUSUANGA Diesel Plant	51,620 pcs.	2,258,375.00 / lot
13.	CAGAYANCILLO Diesel Plant	300 pcs.	13,125.00 / lot
14.	CULION Diesel Plant	409 pcs.	17,900 / lot
15.	CUYO Diesel Plant	12,752 pcs.	557,900.00 / lot
16.	EL NIDO Diesel Plant	1,510 pcs.	66,075.00 / lot
17.	LINAPACAN Diesel Plant	300 pcs.	13,125.00 / lot
18.	NARRA Diesel Plant	688 pcs.	30,100 / lot
19.	PUERTO PRINCESA Diesel Plant	109 pcs.	4,775.00 / lot
20.	ROXAS Diesel Plant	280 pcs.	12,250.00 / lot
21.	SAN VICENTE Diesel Plant	479 pcs.	20,950.00 / lot
22.	TAYTAY Diesel Plant	21 pcs.	925.00 / lot
23.	PALANAN Diesel Plant	282 pcs.	12,350 / lot
24.	LUBUAGAN Diesel Plant	10 pcs.	425.00 / lot
25.	SABTANG Diesel Plant	30 pcs.	1,325.00 / lot
26.	MAMBURAO Diesel Plant	142 pcs.	6,200.00 / lot
27.	ROMBLON Diesel Plant	70 pcs.	3,075.00 / lot
28.	MARINAWA Diesel Plant	300 pcs.	13,125.00 / lot

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 p.m. of June 19, 2003 at Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, NPC, Diliman, Q.C. and shall then and there be opened and read publicly. For the bid form at P50.00 per set, additional information and for inspection permit, please see Mr. S.V. LOMUNTAD, Jr. at the above address or call tel. no. 922-84-31 or 9245-384. Inquiries may also be addressed to Mr. G.S. ALPAJORA, Manager-SPUG Luzon Operations, 4th Floor, NPC Bldg., Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila with tel. no. 527-48-89 / Mr. E.A. VELOSO, Manager-SPUG Visayas Operations, 3rd Floor, Martinez Bldg., Jones Ave., Cebu City with tel. no. (032) 253-31-94 / Mr. A.H. ALSREE, Manager-SPUG Mindanao Operations, Sto. Niño Drive, Pulik Road, Tumaga, Zamboanga City with tel. no. (062) 991-27-57. Deadline for the issuance of the bid forms is until 4:30 p.m. June 18, 2003. All bids must be submitted with the following:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OFFER.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2002) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY).

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/ reject such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

For the Materials Management Department:

(Sgd.) F.B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI–June 2, 3 & 4, 2003)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of LIDWINA LOS BAÑOS ABES had executed a Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement of estate with waiver of rights on April 10, 2003 and acknowledged the same before Notary Public Danilo S. David for and in the City of Quezon, Philippines and bearing Doc. No. 139; Page No. 28; Book No. 1; Series of 2003 of his Notarial Register
(PDI-June 2, 9 & 16 2003)

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Virginia "Inday" Cruz Maruhom

of Maigo Lanao del Norte and Iligan City
Born on November 2, 1924, died on May 31, 2003 at the age of 78.

*Wife of the late **Datu Dimnatang "Eddie" Maruhom***
of the Royal Sultanate of Guimba, Saduc, Marawi City

Her loving children **Jimmie & Sheila Policarpio, Alberto & Annette De Castro, Ditto & Rose Mae, Eli & Tata, Bobit & Luchi, Mon & Bebot Lape, Billy** (†) **& Milen**; grand & great-grandchildren **Tres & Simon, Baron & Jake, Barbie & Eric, Bernie, Marsha, Baby Anne & Jaques Dimanche, Nikki, Pertisha, Penny, Jed & Jio, Thea, Jehann, Mayi, Milen, Alexander, Elizabeth, Carmina, Ton-Ton, Tin-Tin, Apple, Gilbert & Mayette, Andre, Yza, Erica, Step, Sebastian, Anne Marie & Charles**; brother & sister **Florencio & Amparing Cruz, Baby & Luis Arnaiz** (†); niece **Ness Ricarte**.

Her remains lie in state at the Magallanes Chapel 3, Magallanes Church, Makati City up to June 3. On June 4 her remains will be brought to Maigo, Lanao del Norte. Interment will be on Monday, June 9 at Pryce Memorial Park, Iligan City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Michael Cathedral.

"Cast your
care upon the
Lord who
will give
you support
God will
never allow
the righteous
to stumble."
Psalm: 55:23.

"Lord, my allotted portion and my cup,
you have made my destiny secure..."
Psalm 16:5

FERNANDO K. RAMOS

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on May 29, 2003 at the age of 67.

His bereaved wife **TERESITA**; children **FERDINAND, THERESA, TITA, THELMA, FREDERICK, FRANCIS, FERNAN**; children-in-law **GUY JR., OFELIA** and **GRANDCHILDREN**; join other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at Arlington East The Garden Chapels, 1354 C. Raymundo Ave., Pasig City. Interment will be on June 4, 2003 at Pasig Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish, Pasig City.

QUEENIE ARCACHE MELVIN

I am embraced in love and light – God's loving arms are holding me...
Remember the laughter we shared. Please keep laughing – I still laugh with you.
No more sleepless nights. Please rest because in the morning I'll be there, rising with the sun...
Your love, your hope, and now my spirit is soaring free. It's in our smile – yours and mine.

Our beloved Mom, we celebrate your life by honoring your birth on May 28 and remembering your passing on June 2, 1999. The love you gave us is instilled deep within our hearts and we miss you more and more each day...

We love you so much, Mom
Your loving children

Holy Mass will be offered in honor of our beloved Queenie on Monday, June 2 at 6:00 p.m. at the Santuario De San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park.

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region X
Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City
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ADDENDUM TO THE INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Date Published May 1 & 7, 2003

In view of the need to properly evaluate the documentary requirements of prospective bidders, the National Food Authority (NFA) Region X wishes to inform all interested parties that the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is hereby extended.

Activities	From	To
Letter of Intent/Submission of Eligibility Requirements	May 15-21/03	June 16-22/03
Issuance of Bid Documents	June 6-12, 2003	July 7-11, 2003
Pre-Bid Conference	July 3, 2003	July 30, 2003
Deadline for submission of Bid Documents		August 18, 2003 at 10:00 A.M.

Opening of Bids:
Sector B - August 18/03 (Monday) at 1:30 P.M.
Sector A - Will follow after Sector B is completed

Interested applicants may apply for Registration and submit Registration requirements not later than June 12, 2003 to the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Regional Office No. X, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City. Certificate of Registration will be issued to applicants who submitted complete documents.

Bid documents shall be available to Eligible Bidders or his duly authorized representative (with SPA) upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,200.00 per project in the form of cash or cashier's check in favor of NFA. Eligible bidders may submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat two (2) days prior to the scheduled Pre-Bid Conference

NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any formalities or informalities, assume no obligations whatsoever or indemnity to the bidders any expense or loss that it may incur in the preparation of its bid, and to accept only such bids or to award to any contractor whose bid is considered most advantageous to the NFA.

(Sgd.) FLO G. PASCUAL
Regional Director

(PDI--June 2 & 9, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

1898 - 1998 100 KALAYAAN

IN THE MATTER OF

REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION
x- -x

ORDER

WHEREAS, all corporations are required to submit annual reports such as the General Information Sheet and Financial Statements pursuant to Sec. 141 of the Corporation Code of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the records of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) show that there are many corporations who failed to submit the abovementioned reports for the last six (6) consecutive years, i.e. for period 1997-2002;

WHEREFORE, NOTICE is hereby given that **those corporations registered from 1967 to 1975** who failed to submit the said reports are directed to appear within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this Order before the Law and Regulation Division, Company Registration and Monitoring Department of this Commission at the 3rd Floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Mandaluyong City during office hours **and show cause why their Certificate of Registration should not be revoked.**

After the lapse of the said thirty (30) days period and the said delinquent corporations have not updated their files, as well as, settled the corresponding fine or penalty, their Certificate of Registration shall be deemed revoked.

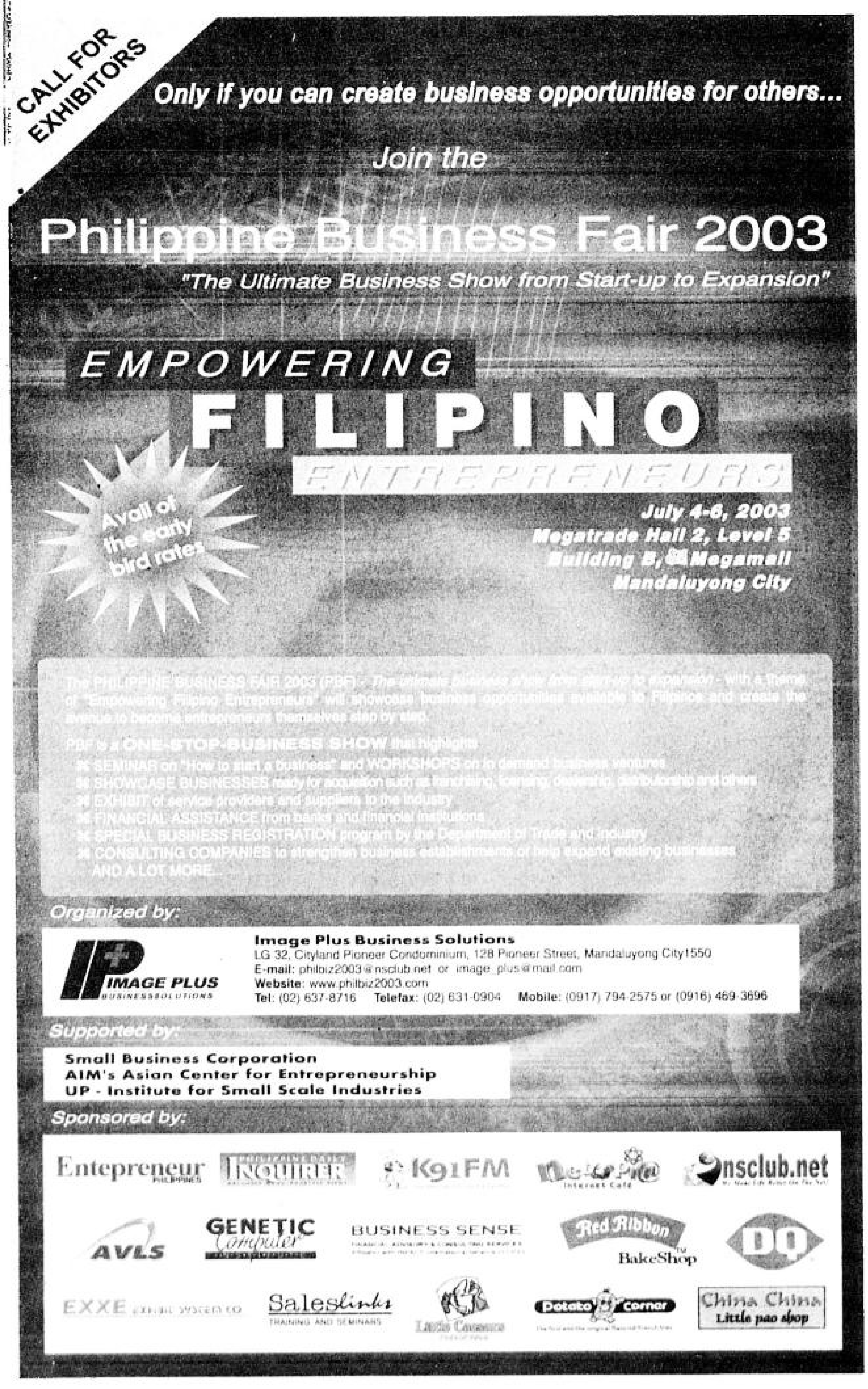
Let this Order be published once in a newspaper of general circulation.

SO ORDERED.

Mandaluyong City, May 27, 2003.

(Sgd.) **BENITO A. CATARAN**
Director
Company Registration and Monitoring Department

(PDI–June 2, 2003)



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Philippine Air Force
Air Force Logistics and Support Command
Headquarters 420th Supply Wing
Clark Air Base, Air Force City
Angeles City, Pampanga

NOTICE OF SALE BY PUBLIC BIDDING

THE PAF Disposal Committee will receive sealed bids until **17 June 2003, 2:00 PM at Conference Room, 420th Supply Wing, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga** for the sale of the following unserviceable properties on **"As Is, Where Is" basis.**

Lot Number/Description		Location	Min Bid Price
02-154-03	– Six (6) UH-IH Carcasses w/ tail nrs; 178, 373, 613, 961, 457 & 958	410th MW, Clark Air Base Angeles City, Pampanga	P 40,000.00
02-190-07	– One (1) unit Airplane Utility N22B w/ tail nr B-20	220th AW, BEAB, Mactan Cebu City	12,000.00
02-201-09	– Assorted Quartermaster & Office Equipment	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base Floridablanca, Pampanga	8,000.00
8-040-008	– Three (3) units T-41D Acft Carcasses w/ tail nrs 974,975 & 952	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base Floridablanca, Pampanga	40,000.00

REMINDERS TO BIDDERS:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit bid in PAF official bid form.
3. Earnest money is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to (10%) of the bid price.
4. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commence.
5. Pre-bid conference and issuance of Bid Forms (P200.00 per set) will be on **11 June 2003, 2:00 PM at 420th SW Conference Rm, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga.**
6. Inspection schedule will be from 03-11 June 2003, from 0800H to 1600H, Monday to Friday.

PAF DISPOSAL COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, AND TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE PAF.

For details and schedule of inspection: call Cpt Vicente F Flora Jr PAF at (045) 599-2015 LOC. 6524 OR CELL no. 0920-4069761.

(Sgd.) **CLAUDIO P ESTALILLA**
Brigadier General, AFP
Chairman, PAF Disposal Committee

(PDI – May 31, June 1 & 2, 2003)

OFWNet

presents

The Overseas Filipinos Worldwide (OFW) Conference & Trade Exhibit

Theme: 'Overseas Filipinos Worldwide: The New Economic and Political Force'
May 23-25, 2003
Hall 3, SM Megatrade, Mandaluyong City, Philippines

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES

- 3-day conference for Overseas Filipinos Worldwide
- 3-day trade exhibit showcasing business opportunities and investments for overseas Filipinos and their families
- Business matching and presentations of exhibiting companies
- Socials and fellowship night of overseas Filipinos
- City tours for overseas Filipinos

Reserve your exhibit booth spaces and register NOW!

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY 1, May 23, 2003 — Focused on OFW Contribution to Philippine Society
10:00am - 5:00pm

- Registration
- Welcome Remarks
- Keynote Address
- **Topic 1:** The Overseas Filipinos in Nation Building — Impact on Philippine Economy
- **Topic 2:** The Overseas Filipinos in Nation Building — Impact on Society, Culture, Politics and Family
- **Topic 3:** What the Overseas Filipinos and the Government should and can do to enhance the former's contribution to the Philippine economy
- Position Paper Presentations of Conference Delegates (1 for each country represented)
- Conference Resolutions
- Cocktails/Socials for Overseas Filipinos

DAY 2, May 24, 2003 — Focused on Business & Economics
10:00am- 5:00pm

- Registration
- Program for Overseas Filipinos by DOLE
- Business Opportunities for Overseas Filipinos/ SMEs by DTI
- Technology Assistance to Overseas Filipinos/ SMEs by TLRC
- Sources of Funds for Overseas/SMEs by Landbank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, Small Business Guarantee Fund Corp., OWWA
- Entrepreneurship Seminar for Overseas Filipinos
- Business Presentations of Trade Exhibitors (Franchising, Retail Trade, Service Industries, Insurance/Pre-need Plan, Real Estate, Food Processing, Handicrafts, IT Education & Training, Agro-industrial)
- Cocktails/Socials for Overseas Filipinos

DAY 3, May 25, 2003 — Focused on Government Programs for Overseas Filipinos
10:00am- 5:00pm

- Registration
- OFW Reintegration Program by DOLE
- The Role of OWWA in the Economic Development of OFWs
- The Role of POEA in the Economic Development of OFWs
- The Role of DFA in the Economic Development of OFs
- Parallel Sessions
  - How to Start a Business
  - Marketing Your Business / Product
  - Project / Business Financing
  - Do's and Dont's of Investments
  - Crisis Management for SMEs
  - Simple Budgeting & Accounting
- Special Presentation of the 2004 Presidentiables (Topic/ Question: If you are to become the President, what will be your program for overseas Filipinos?)
- Cocktails/ Socials for Overseas Filipinos

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- Real Estate Companies
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- Health / Medical / Dental Services
- Franchising Companies
- Computer Hardware / Software

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Umed's esteemed faculty: the 'circle of mentors'

UNITED Medical Education and Development (Umed) is an answer to Filipino doctors' yearning for further enhancement of their skills in their practice. Being constantly faced by the challenge of new ideas, new technology and new health concerns, doctors are provided by Umed with a venue for growth and development opportunities.

Medical practitioners who have availed themselves of the Umed series of conferences and seminars are one in saying that they have truly benefited from these events. Umed owes much of the success of its current CME program to its esteemed faculty composed of experts in pulmonology and pediatric infectious diseases.

During a thanksgiving ceremony, Umed conferred on its faculty the title Circle of Mentors, in recognition of its service and involvement the past three years. The elegant ceremony saw a gathering of over a hundred specialists in pulmonary medicine, pediatric infectious disease, neonatology and internal medicine.

Dr. Ivan Villespin, a member of Umed's board of advisers, an associate professor of the UST College of Medicine and Surgery and director of the UST Center for Respiratory Medicine, commented Umed has lived up to its mission of providing CME uniquely devoid of commercialism and strictly addressing the technical and scientific needs of doctors.

For her part, Dr. Josefina Carlos, a pediatric infectious disease specialist and another member of Umed's Circle of Mentors, agrees Umed has a CME program conducted effectively by teachers who had to undergo a facilitation skills seminar to handle the Umed courses. She says, "I have gained a wealth of experience as a member of the core faculty of Umed. Teaching is a two-way process. I also learned from the participants/students who were doctors like me. And so it was being united with partners working towards one goal."

Timex celebrates Ironman anniversary

THE TIMEX Ironman Triathlon watch and the Ironman triathlete have one thing in common: just as Timex is known in the United States as the watch that "takes a lickin' and keeps on tickin'", the Ironman athlete has won the hearts of many for his extraordinary spirit, strength and endurance.

This October, the World Ironman Triathlon will be celebrating its 25th anniversary with Timex as its official sports watch. The Timex Ironman Triathlon watch, since its introduction in 1986, is known to assert its leadership position among performance sportswatches.

Its latest breakthrough is the Timex Ironman Triathlon Speed and Distance, which uses a custom Garmin GPS satellite receiver to continuously transmit speed, distance and pace to the Ironman watch via a digital FM signal. The Ironman watch display's one's performance while walking, running, biking, skiing and more. This lightweight system makes it possible for athletes of all kinds to finally answer the ultimate all-important questions: "how far and how fast?"

The World Ironman Triathlon will be celebrating its silver year in its birthplace, Hawaii. Want to witness this much-awaited event with a friend? Timex is giving away a round trip ticket for two to Hawaii, with 4 days and 3 nights hotel accommodations and lad transfer. How about exploring the breathtaking beaches of Boracay for 3 days and 2 nights? You can also have the feel of a budding triathlete as you speed away with your new race bike or as you wear one of the 50 Timex Ironman Anniversary watches at stake.

Hurry. Grab your coupons from any of the Timex outlets for a chance to win these fantastic prizes. The promo Ironman Hawaii Get Away is on until June 21.

INFOTECH

E-mail: pr_info_tech@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Leo Magno

Body clears bidding of P250-M DBM project

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

AN INTER-AGENCY body composed of top government officials recently declared that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) followed "all laws, rules and regulations" during the bidding of the P250-million government e-procurement system (G-EPS).

The G-EPS is a Web-based system where eventually all Philippine government bids and procurement activities would be conducted.

In an official reply to questions posed by losing bidder Advance Systems Technology Inc. (Asti) president Rizalino Gerardo Favila, the Government Procurement Policy Board maintained that there were no alleged irregularities in the bidding.

Members of the Government Procurement Policy Board include top-level officials of central agencies in government including the Department of Health, Department of Public Works and Highways and the National Economic Development Authority.

DBM Secretary Emilia Boncodin chairs the body.

Issues

After months of deliberating on issues raised by Asti, the inter-agency body said the proceedings for the bidding of the G-EPS did not violate the rules set by the Inter-Agency Bids and Awards Committee in the DBM, and other existing government laws such as Executive Order 40.

EO 40, decreed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, mandated the establishment of the e-procurement system. It also covers the eligibility of multinational companies who may want to participate in the bidding.

It also sets the rules on ownership of companies that are eligible to participate in government IT projects. The EO currently mandates that companies should be at least 60 percent Filipino-owned to be able to bid.

Asti's letters dated Jan. 16, 2003 and March 14, 2003 raised issues on the location of the mirror site for the G-EPS, the transparency of scoring during the bidding, and the relationship of ITBF Philippines with members of the consortium that joined the bid for the project.

Mirror site

On the issue of the location of the mirror site, Boncodin—writing in behalf of the Procurement Policy Board—said that the request for proposals for the project was silent with respect to the location of the mirror site.

"The plain and simple reason for this is that the bidder is granted the option to propose the location of the mirror site, whether locally or abroad as long as it has...a separate system that will include all system functionality of the G-EPS and will support the publication of bid notices and documents, the document ordering process, the delivery of amendments and opportunity matching," Boncodin said.

Boncodin stressed that the location of the mirror site is an issue more appropriately addressed by the Procurement Policy Board.

"It may please you to note, however, that under the proposed contract, the DBM has the unilateral authority to require the contractor to transfer the mirror site to a new location without added cost," Boncodin said.

On the issue of transparency of scoring, Boncodin noted that the system used was design to safeguard the integrity of the bidding system, and to insulate it from individual biases.

The DBM has adopted a group scoring system in the evaluation of the bids. The method involved the DBM Technical Working Group collectively assessing the proposal of each bidder. After deliberation, they submit the group's recommendation to the Inter-Agency Bids and Awards Committee.

"Consequently, there are no available documents which will indicate the individual scores of each member of the TWG," the official said.

Asti's Favila was asking the DBM to provide the company detailed information on how each member of the TWG scored each bidder due to the slim difference in the final scores. The ITBF Philippines consortium won over Asti, after the former scored 963.42 points against Asti's 951.82 points.

The Asti-led consortium includes Singapore Computer Systems and Globe Telecom.

Boncodin said that the scoring system has complied with government rules, citing provisions in EO 40.

But as requested by Asti, she assured that the DBM would provide the losing bidder details on how it scored in each evaluation criteria described in the agency's request for proposals.

On the issue of ITBF Philippines' relationship with the members of the consortium, Boncodin wrote that ITBF Philippines, which participated in the bid as a joint venture, has complied with the eligibility requirements of the DBM.

"As clarified during the pre-bid conference held last Sept. 5, 2002, bidders are allowed to form a consortium or joint venture in order to take advantage of each other's strengths," the official said.

Such a requirement is consistent with the requirements for eligibility and short-listing of prospective proponents for the public bidding of the G-EPS project, as noted in the requirements of the bid.

No such rule

Boncodin also noted that there is no law or rule in the Philippines that requires joint ventures to be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Asti earlier pointed out that ITBF Philippines was not registered with the SEC.

"As a general rule, joint venture parties are granted the right to decide on the appropriate business vehicle it wants to adopt. Our main concern is the ability to enforce solitary liability among the members of the joint venture. As such, we have required joint venture parties to submit valid and duly notarized joint venture agreement, and to which ITBF Philippines has complied," Boncodin said.

Winning bidder says loser courting slander lawsuit

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

EAST West Electronic Trade Center Ltd. (EWETC) chief executive Thomas Price warned the top executive of Ayala Systems Technology Inc. (Asti) from making unsubstantiated and "irresponsible" statements about his company.

Price told INQ7.net in an interview that Asti president Rizalino Gerardo Favila's statements about the company's financial state is bordering on slander.

EWETC is the lead proponent in a joint venture known as ITBF Philippines that won the bid for the P250-million government e-procurement system (G-EPS) project of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Other members of ITBF Philippines include Right Computers Systems Inc., Asia Business Consultants (ABC) Inc. and Infomediary Philippines.

"What Asti is doing is misrepresentation of facts about the company. This is no different from what they have done in the past about the company," said Price.

During a briefing, Favila brought up its concerns on the net financial contracting capacity of the ITBF group, a requirement in the eligibility of bidders for the DBM project.

Favila said that based on the financial statements given to the Securities and Exchange Commission, three companies (ABC, EWETC and Infomediary) have negative working capital. Only Right Computers had positive net working capital, according to Favila.

The net financial contracting capacity (NFCC) is computed as a company's current assets minus current liabilities multiplied by 20, according to Favila.

"If you compute the individual net financial contracting capability of each company, it is less than P150 million, which is below the prescribed P250 million or the budget of the DBM," Favila said.

Favila also pointed out that the financial statement of EWETC, as filed with the SEC, showed the firm has had zero revenue for the past two years.

Price, however, dismissed Favila's statements as false, saying that the NFCC of EWETC is "more than adequate" to satisfy the requirements of the DBM.

"It is way more than P250 million," he added.

Price said that Favila was referring to information about EWETC's Philippine branch only. The official stressed that EWETC is a company based in Hong Kong, and that it has several branches in other countries.

"We have more customers than (Asti) could realize. We have 86 contracts with us right now," Price noted. "They should be doing their homework. In fact, I would gladly want them to come by my office and show them our NFCC."

Price said that EWETC, with its corporate headquarters in Hong Kong, submitted its audited financial statements to the DBM.

But as a "closed corporation," Price pointed out that its financial statement is not on public record, and therefore anyone claiming to have a copy of EWETC's financial statements could be liable for a crime just by having it in their possession.

Price was particularly angered by Asti's claim that the company's audited financial statement did not show any revenue for the last two years of operations in the Philippines.

"As a Philippine branch, we don't file our financial statements at the local SEC," the executive said.

Price warned Favila from making more "irresponsible statements" about EWETC, or he might face a possible case of slander.

"What he is doing is not right. They don't know all the facts. If he could prove that the 40 plus people who decided on the outcome of the bidding are incompetent, then I'll give it to him. I'm getting tired of this intentional slander on me, my company and ITBF Philippines," Price said.

"It is very amateur for them to delay this project and call for a rebid of the project," he added.

According to its website, EWETC operates in five regions: Asia-Pacific, South America, North America, Europe and Africa.

RP to become test bed for Siemens

By Joel D. Pinaroc

GERMAN mobile technology company Siemens will be collating facts and figures from mobile phone users in the Philippines which the company will eventually use in its research and development efforts in the global wireless communications business.

Top executives of Siemens said the company is taking a different tack on its customer relationship efforts as it will utilize a third-party call center facility to do the task of getting feedback from customers in the country which will eventually be used as basis for future product developments in mobile phone technology.

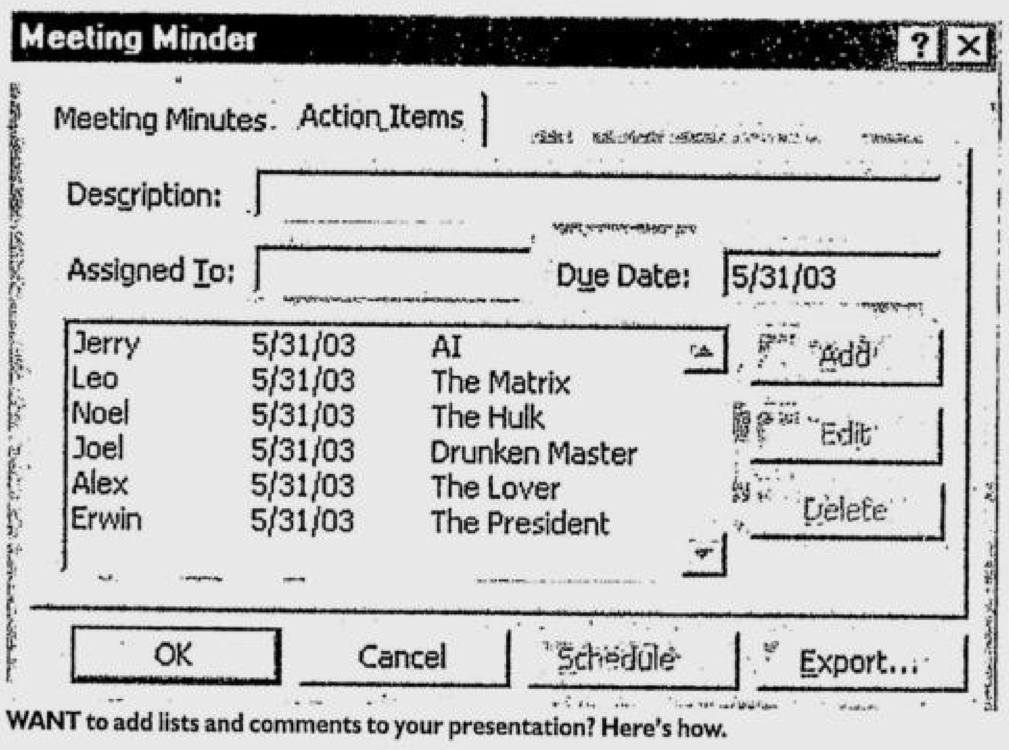
The company recently forged a partnership with global call center firm Sykes Asia to beef up its customer support efforts as well as get a first-hand look on the mobile trend usage in the country.

"The Philippines uses SMS very much and now (they are using) MMS. We think that we can learn more of the trend in mobile communications to come up with better phones in the future," said Thorsten Nicklass, general manager of Siemens Mobile in Asia Pacific.

Currently, estimates place the number of cell phone users in the Philippines as nearing 20 million, or about 28 percent of the population. However, despite the low percentage, the Philippines is considered the SMS capital of the world, surpassing even European countries in the usage of SMS or what is commonly known as "texting."

Nicklass said this volume of SMS users, and the emerging volume of MMS users, is significant in projecting what other wireless technologies should be introduced in the future.

Nicklass said that aside from providing customer support, the Sykes call center, located in Makati City and manned by 18 call center agents, is also an important part of the German firm's ultimate goal of dislodging rival Nokia as the top cell phone manufacturer in the world and in the Philippines.



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WANT to add lists and comments to your presentation? Here's how.

How to keep a list of suggestions during a Powerpoint presentation

By Jerry Liao

DURING a presentation, have you ever needed to make a list of ideas, comments, suggestions or action items? Use Microsoft PowerPoint's Meeting Minder to do this. Here's how you can do this trick:

1) Open Microsoft Powerpoint and start by creating a new presentation. Just try it with any subject for a start.

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3) Type your information into the "Description," "Assigned To" and "Due Date" boxes. After placing the required information in the above-mentioned boxes, click "Add."

4) To add more action items, simply repeat Step 3 then click on "OK."

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6) You can even tranfer the list to Microsoft Word or MS Outlook by clicking the "Export" button.

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PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Trade Secretary Mar Roxas recently discussed the investments of Convergys in the Philippines during the President's state visit to the United States. With Macapagal and Roxas are Albert del Rosario, Philippine ambassador to the US (rightmost); Jack Freker, Convergys president (second from left); and Marife Zamora, Convergys general manager for the Philippines (leftmost).

Convergys meets GMA

CONVERGYS Corp., the largest, outsourced contact center services provider in the world, will soon open two integrated contact centers in Manila.

The announcement came after Jack Freker, president of Convergys Customer Management Group, met in New York with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during her US state visit.

Construction of the new Convergys facilities is underway in Makati and Pasig and the first employees will be located in the buildings in less than two months. When these facilities reach their capacity of approximately 880 workstations, Convergys will have one of the largest multi-client, US-owned company operations in the Philippines.

Full employment at the new contact centers is expected in the next 12 to 14 months. The contact centers will provide both general support and advanced technical help desk services to a variety of Convergys clients via voice calling, e-mail and Web chat as well as "back office" application and document processing.

EMC talks about online storage

By Gerry Plaza

ORGANIZATIONS requiring intelligent information management solutions can now take advantage of Web-based storage network design, automated data deployment and failover support without the complexity and cost of expanding infrastructure.

Storage systems vendor EMC Corp. has unveiled online subscription-based software that culls the firm's expertise in providing information management resources whenever needed.

The company rolled out EMC SAN Architect and Auto Device, online services that can either work standalone or as part of the vendor's storage management Control Center. Both allow users to utilize a single console to troubleshoot problems, design storage area network environments and warn users and provide helpful pointers in addressing potential problems that could lead to data or productivity loss.

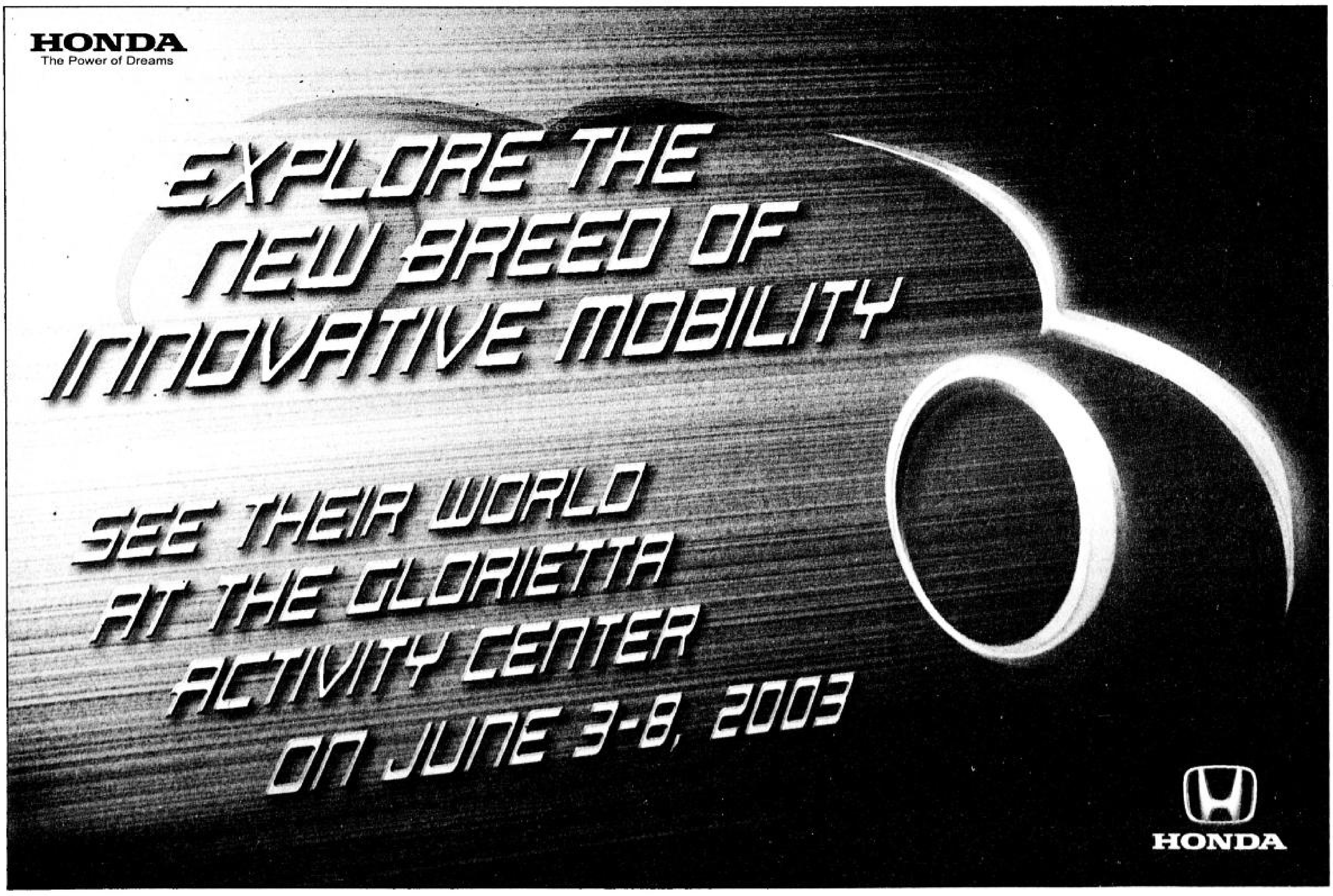
Subscribers access the solutions online from EMC's knowledge base—making cost-effective migration or support interfaces to validate SAN designs, and finding trouble spots while recommending best-of-breed practices.

SAN Architect, a template-driven modeling and validation software, guides IT administrators to build fully functional SANS, covering applications, hosts, servers and storage systems on an open environment.

Auto Advice, on the other hand, provides a powerful intelligence engine that analyzes actual customer data about current and historical application and infrastructure performance, as well as resource allocation.

"These new capabilities will help customers overcome their skills shortages, deliver better service levels, shorten time to problem identification and resolution and greatly simplify the task of architecting and implementing networked storage environments," EMC senior vice president for storage infrastructure software Charles Gahagan said.

According to Gahagan, a simple access to the service would allow organizations to employ its expertise in networked storage without having to rebuild its configuration, acquire manpower, or engage in costly integration services in either redesigning its SAN or monitor performance.



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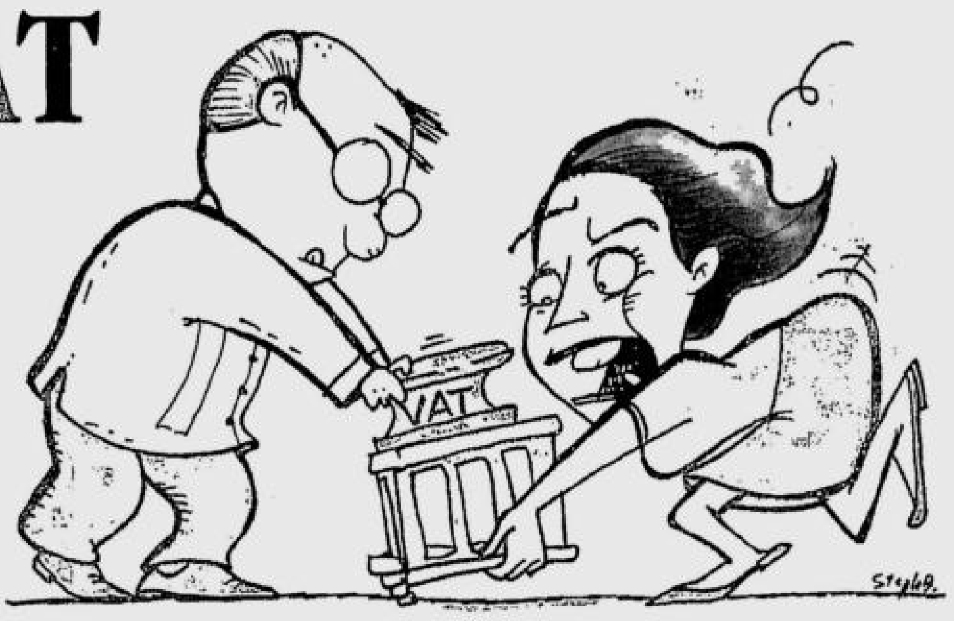
Raving mad about VAT



By Elena R. Torrijos

"YOU'RE heartless!"

This was just one of the violent reactions of borrowers after their thrift bank informed them they would have to pay higher monthly amortization because of the 10 percent value added tax.

Other borrowers accused their banks of using the VAT as a scam. They believed the financial institution would simply pocket the money from the VAT payment rather than remit it to the government.

The 10 percent VAT on financial institutions is certainly emerging as among the biggest ironies in the economy. It is unwanted by every sector, even by the government, which reluctantly imposed it last March to comply with the law.

The VAT on financial institutions came into effect at the start of this year after Congress failed to pass a law further postponing the tax's effectivity. Now, it is still up to Congress to pass a bill acceptable to the administration that could face a backlash from the emotional storm whipped up by the VAT.

"It's a measure that nobody wants yet it has to be implemented and the result of this is a social injustice," Guillermo Choa, Subdivision and Housing Developers Association board adviser says.

Housing, Choa says, has a high multiplier effect and thus plays a major role in pump-priming the economy.

Higher interest payments, on loans and revolved credit card purchases, will also dampen consumption, a major

RAVING/ B2-2

Reformed tax bodies increased collections

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

ONE country replaced its tax collection bureau with a semi-autonomous agency—as a result, tax collections doubled. Ghana's taxes comprised 7 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) in 1984. The reforms came in 1985, and the ratio kept climbing, reaching 16 percent of GDP in 1996.

Hikes in tax collection are the general trend seen in nations that shifted to such agencies. Why they work is explained by economist Rosario G. Manasan in her paper, "Tax Administration Reform: Semi-Autonomous Revenue Authority, Anyone?"

She specializes in public finance for the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS). This is relevant for the current debate in the Philippines. On the drawing board are three bills for an agency to replace the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

One is House Bill No. 5054 for the Internal Revenue Management Authority (Irma). The second is HB 5465 for the National Authority for Revenue Administration (Nara). The third is the most recent, a substitute bill for the National Internal Revenue Authority (Nira).

Tax evasion via bribes

Manasan says there are common traits found in countries that fail to collect enough taxes. The civil service rules are too rigid as regards retention and pay, keeping salaries low in the public sector. That in turn makes it difficult for the revenue bodies to attract and keep competent and professional employees.

The public believes there is corruption among tax examiners, who let tax payers get away with smaller payments in exchange for bribes. As a result, voluntary compliance is minimal, as people feel the system is unfair.

These difficulties have led some countries to create semi-autonomous revenue agencies. These bodies are free from the usual personnel and funding rules of the public sector. This means they can offer high salaries to attract the most competent professionals.

The generous pay also keeps them honest. They can fire the corrupt without getting entangled in court cases. And they can link the pay of the employees with the total revenue generated. All these make the system fair and credible, thus promoting public cooperation.

Winning package

What are the common elements of these renewed agencies around the globe? First is their legal character: they were created by law. Without legal character, these bodies would end up purely subordinate to the finance ministries. Second, many are governed by a Board of Directors which oversees a CEO. Having board members from both the public and private sectors helps create a broad driving force for reform.

Third, their budgets are set as a percentage of the revenue they collect. This makes the agency more motivated to collect taxes and more protected from political pressure. Fourth, they enjoy much freedom to hire and fire. Compensation depends on performance and is not limited by the standard civil service caps.

Fifth, these agencies are supported by strong accountability mechanisms. For example, the commissioner of the Kenya Revenue Authority audits the accounts of the agency every three months and submits the report to the board of directors and the finance minister. In Mexico the commissioner even reports directly to the legislature.

Less corruption, better service

Since the reforms were set, has corruption in the revenue agencies increased, decreased, or remained the same? The following survey data came from the 2000 Ph.D. dissertation of Robert Taliercio of Harvard University.

The responses were Much Less corruption, Substantially Less, Slightly Less, No Change,

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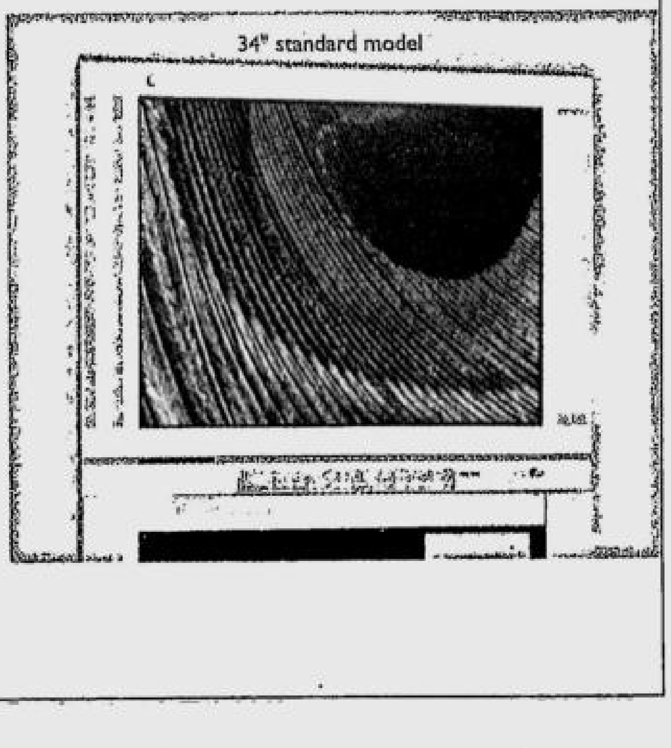

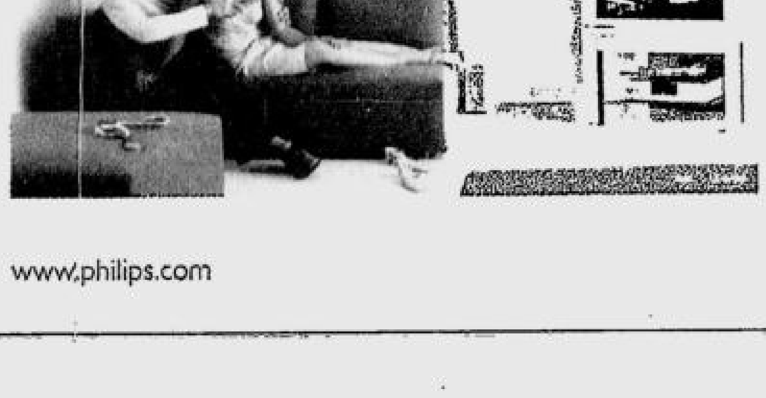

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Philippine LGU debt market: Five years after

(First of Two Parts)

MAPping THE FUTURE

Jesus Tirona

AS recently as five years ago, access to private capital by Local Government Units (LGU) was completely unheard of.

Despite the passage of the Local Government Code of 1991 that allowed LGUs to seek non-traditional mode of financing such as bond flotation, private financial institutions (PFIs) and investors simply refused to be exposed to them.

Because these were political in nature, they must certainly represent high credit risk.

In March 1998, The Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), together with its partner, Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), established the LGU Guarantee Corporation (LGUGC) to "bridge" that gap between the LGUs and the capital market by guaranteeing LGU debts.

In effect, the LGUGC enhanced the LGUs' credit worthiness, thereby eliminating the risk of non-payment.

Now, LGUGC takes stock of where it is today vis-a-vis its mission of being the lead institution in the development of primary and secondary markets for LGU debts. An assessment of the funding gap between PFIs and the LGUs is thus in order.

Breaking the ice

It will be recalled that prior to LGUGC's entry, the only bonds issued were exclusively for home building purposes with limited terms of two to three years, in small amounts and at fixed rates.

There were no established bond market players then, no credit ratings done on the issuers although all, except one, carried a sovereign guarantee. The housing bonds were sold through a network of government securities dealers.

Since LGU deposits were kept with the GFIs, the latter obviously have every reason to zealously protect their turf. It was clear that the private sector banks were to compete in an "uneven" playing field if it had lent directly to LGUs.

LGUGC therefore had to initially adopt a pro-active strategy weaving into various LGU leagues' meetings, dealing directly with the local executives and getting familiar with how the LGUs operated until it was able to pinpoint a market niche for its services, i.e., LGU bond financing.

The Local Government Code, in fact, had worked in favor of LGUGC. Only revenue generating projects could be financed through the bond route. In addition, the Code also adequately protected the bondholder/investor when it decreed that current budgets stood to be suspended if contracted obligations were not met.

In 1999, the LGUGC-PFI cooperative efforts resulted in a breakthrough when the first-ever non-housing revenue bond was issued for an abattoir upgrade. This was followed that same year by another small issue for a jetty port and terminal building.

Other enterprising LGUs followed in floating bond indentures to fund self-liquidating projects. A total of P1.677 billion are in the hands of primary investors today and the list of projects now include low-cost housing, public markets, commercial buildings, hospital, and a convention center with lodging facilities.

The LGU bonds issued so far are referred to as "double-barreled" bonds in that they depend on project revenues as a first way out and are further back-stopped by LGUGC's full guarantee as a second way out.

Policy enhancements

The then-prevailing market imperfections gave LGUGC every reason to pursue much-needed and timely government interventions if only to entice a reluctant private sector community to take a second look at a new breed of borrowers in the making.

The Department of Finance (DOF) initially challenged the private sector to help wean LGUs support away from the national government on which it traditionally depended for financing. The BAP responded positively and the DOF has since been collaborating closely with the private sector when it entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with LGUGC/BAP to augment MOAs also entered into with the GFIs.

The issuance of certification for maximum debt ceiling now also includes an indication of debt repayment capability. A monitoring process is likewise in place to keep track of both direct loans and contingent liabilities of the LGUs.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) contributed to the cause when it ruled that LGU bonds would be considered as alternative compliance to the agri-agra mandatory credit allocation imposed on banks.

After a review of the bond process, the BSP reduced the risk weight assigned to LGU bonds from 100 percent to 50 percent provided these were guaranteed by LGUGC and are covered by a deed of assignment on their internal revenue allotment (IRA). The twin moves provided much-needed incentives for the bond process to finally take off.

Institutionalizing players

The LGUGC has seen an increase in the number of market players as specialized roles begin to evolve. First in line is the Financial Advisor (FA) who is signed up by the LGU to assist in preparing feasibility studies and doing the financial packaging conventionally on a "no cure-no pay" basis.

Our experience having worked with a number of FAs has now provided the basis for structuring appropriate guidelines for accreditation, and dis-accreditation as well, since they represent the LGUs in many aspects of the bond process.

To stay qualified, the FAs financial standing, management expertise and principals' solid reputation should not be compromised.

The banking community boasts of member banks that are well-capitalized and well-tracked in underwriting and trust functions. However, the full potential of financial services coming from these PFIs have yet to be maximized.

A recent BSP circular restricting trust functions for LGU funds back to the GFIs has further dampened the attempt to level the playing field. An appeal is now lodged with the BSP justifying in the process that bond proceeds are not government funds but rather, placements coming from private bondholders.

Currently, the marketplace has identified four FAs, four underwriters and three trustees. Yet to surface is a dedicated bond counsel whose sole responsibility will be to serve the interests of the bondholder/investor.

For instance, in a mature bond market such as that of the US, a bond counsel's opinion is an affirmation that the LGU borrowing is legal, its pledged assets are authorized, and that the documents are binding on all parties and enforceable in courts. The counsel's imprimatur therefore adds to the level of comfort sought by the bondholders.

Likewise, a stand-alone LGU ratings organization has yet to be established. In the interim, LGUGC conducts its internal credit screening and rating system which follows international standards. The actual rating is contracted out and a ratings committee - made up of personalities from the academe, former bankers, ex-politicians, and top management executives - does the actual rating.

LGUGC has ensured that no LGU goes out to the bond market without being rated, a pre-condition that will most certainly be required when the fixed income exchange is finally established sometime late in the year. Recently, the LGUGC published its benchmarking of 500 LGUs from an initial list of 120. It shows where an LGU stands vis-a-vis the rest and should provide an indication of whether or not a LGU can qualify for a bond issue. (To be continued)

(The author is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and President and CEO of LGU Guarantee Corporation. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Raving mad about VAT

From page B2-1

driver of the economy.

I felt terrible, just terrible," a top executive of a multinational financial service firm says after receiving a notice from his bank that the 10 percent VAT would be applied on the interest on his home loan.

Like many other "retail" borrowers—individuals with housing, auto, salary and other similar loans—the executive quickly demanded an explanation from his bank.

Why, for example, was he being asked to pay the entire 10 percent VAT? Shouldn't he just be paying an additional 5 percent since banks up till then had been paying 5 percent gross receipts tax?

It turns out that home loans are subject to less than 5 percent GRT in the first seven years and are exempt after that.

The executive is among the hundreds of thousands of borrowers who have been calling their account officers for similar clarifications. It has nearly paralyzed banking operations.

The president of a large thrift bank says that, after sending out VAT notices to thousands of clients seeking retroactive payment of VAT since the start of the year, the bank was deluged with calls. Business ground to a standstill.

"It's a mess," he says.

The bank's phone lines were clogged and marketing people whose jobs were to promote bank products had to entertain calls from irate borrowers and explain the new tax.

At the end of the day, though, the banker says the retail borrowers agreed to pay.

"What are even more of a problem are the big borrowers rather than the average ones. Some big borrowers are hard-headed, they say they will not pay," the banker says.

Big borrowers, are in fact, the ones that should be least affected by the tax because they can credit their "input" VAT against their VAT payment on interest.

The small and medium enterprises, however, will be harder hit as there is little room for them to pass on the additional VAT payment to their customers.

Chamber of Thrift Banks executive director Suzanne Felix says the SMEs, a major industry client of thrift banks, feel they will become uncompetitive if they pass on VAT to their customers.

For banks, the pain of collecting the VAT is almost but not quite as traumatic as for the borrower who has to pay it.

Bankers have used words such as "complicated," "impossible" and "onerous" to describe the VAT. They have to spend millions of pesos to adjust their systems to collect VAT.

It may also take a bite out of earnings. Land Bank of the Philippines has said it posted a profit of P576 million in the first quarter of this year but because of the VAT it could go down by as much as P292 million.

In a letter to the Department of Finance last month, CTB president Susan Figueras says: "The implementation of the VAT could prove detrimental to the economy at this point in time and the Government would be doing the exact opposite of the policy moves of other countries."

In the meantime, until Congress acts, borrowers, banks and the government will have to live with the nightmare of VAT on financial institutions.

Life insurance is a 'people thing'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WHEN Enrique R. Alberto was growing up, he used to see his mother come home shouting for joy.

But he would also see her walk through the door with tears in her eyes.

Alberto's parents were both in the insurance business so "Ricky", the EVP of AsianLife Financial Assurance Corp. (ALFA), lived and breathed insurance and was fed and educated through commissions.

It came as no surprise when Alberto ended up in the same profession.

He recalls that he started selling when he was still in college.

At 19, he earned a commission of P500 to P600, a good sum at a time when movies cost P3.50 and a chocolate milk shake at Dairy Bar can be enjoyed for P1.50.

His mom became a member of the Million Dollar Round Table which means that at one time, she earned P1 million in commissions in one year.

The P1-million minimum was later increased to P1.4 million to reflect inflation and depreciation.

Today, as chief operating officer of an 'old-new' insurance firm, Alberto is tasked with going all over the country to talk to its agents and clients and explain the new name.

AsianLife Financial Assurance Corp. is the former All AsiaLife Assurance Corp. which suffered financial difficulties.

ALFA recently launched its new corporate name via whole page newspaper ads.

It was bought by ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners which is one of the country's biggest investment houses with a capital of over P1 billion.

ATR Holdings includes the Gokongwei Group, A. Soriano Group, Marsman Drysdale, and Loida Nicolas-Lewis.

King Eng Holdings is one of Singapore's largest stock brokers.

Alberto says the focus of the group would be to expand its individual life insurance business and loans to teachers.

Asialife is one of the accredited firms who can have the premiums for insurance sales deducted from the teachers salaries.

ALBERTO keeps fit vith badminton games with his brood of three—Juan Miguel, Regina and Lorenzo.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

Although ALFA is relatively small in the insurance business, it has jumbo policies, which he took care of when All AsiaLife suffered financial straits.

Jumbo policies carry premiums of at least P1 million for a policy worth P50 to P60 million.

As former EVP and COO of All AsiaLife, he says "I serviced these personally."

He says ALFA's most expensive policy carries a premium of P1.6 million

But Alberto points out that an insurance firm was able to sell a policy worth P80 million with the premium amounting to P32 million paid up front.

To the 50-year-old insurance man, the key to a successful insurance business lies with its agents.

"You have to have a good selection of agents. The life insurance business is a people thing."

And in this business, being young is not always an advantage.

"Below 30 is too young. If you approach a person and you talk of financial products, the prospects might think these people are too young to be talking about these things."

And he says when times are bad, insurance sales go up.

"Insurance is an instant estate," he points out.

In his 30 years in the business, Alberto lists the following as traits of a good agent: hard-working, has focus and target, and accepts rejection.

Target or goal is very important in an agent, he says, as this is what will drive one to succeed.

And accepting rejection is a must "because the chances of people buying insurance is one out of 10."

Alberto's job is "to bring the company back on track. What is nice about the owners is that they are not after market share but would like to concentrate on becoming a good company who will serve its clients properly."

ENRIQUE R. Alberto, EVP and COO of AsianLife Financials Assurance Corp.

Reformed tax bodies increased collections

From page B2-1

Slightly More corruption, Substantially More, and Much More. To save space, these responses are collapsed to Less Corruption and More Corruption. The No Change figures are not shown.

	Less corruption	More corruption
Peru	95%	4%
Mexico	55	8
Venezuela	79	4
Bolivia	26	26

In fact, the responses in Peru were enthusiastic: 52 percent for Much Less corruption, 33 percent for Substantially Less and 10 percent for Slightly Less.

Did the quality of service improve, worsen, or remain the same? These results were obtained.

	Better Service	Worse Service
Peru	96%	2%
Mexico	58	4
Venezuela	87	8
Bolivia	66	6

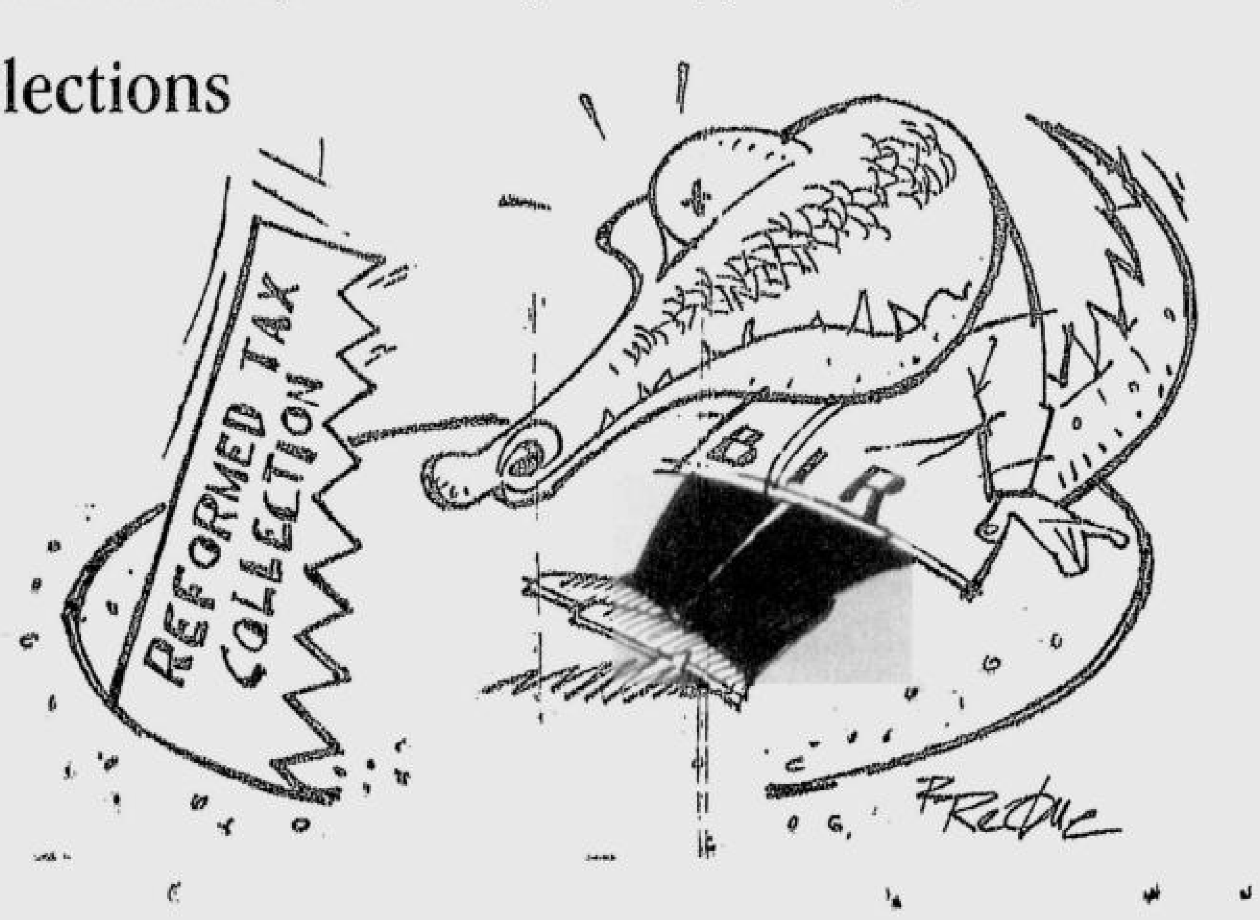
Hikes in tax collection

The reforms have borne fruit in some countries, as seen in the tax effort ratios, or the ratio of tax to gross domestic product.

In Peru, this ratio rose from 9 percent in 1987 before the reform to 15 percent in 1997. In Uganda, tax effort boomed from 4 percent in 1990 to 11 percent in 1996. Bolivia's ratio was 8 percent in 1987, which shot up to 15 percent in 1998.

The results were less spectacular in other nations, though. In Colombia, the tax effort ratio of 10 percent in 1990 rose to just 13 percent in 1997. In Venezuela, the ratio of 14 percent of GDP in 1993 moved up to 17 percent in 1997. In South Africa, the tax effort of 24 percent in 1996 inched up to 26 percent in 1999.

These renewed tax agencies work around the world. It is up to the House and Senate to resist the corrupt and to enact the badly needed reform in the Philippines. *Comments to darroyo@philonline.com*



Beating competition through aggressive pricing

By Viring P. Bañaga
Contributor

GROWING YOUR BUSINESS

PRICING, you might say, is simply cost plus profit. Well, that is pricing at its most basic. However, what would you do if your No. 1 competitor suddenly pulls down his pricing? Or when suddenly the demand for your product skyrockets or, worse, plunges?

These and other conditions will often lead you to rethink your pricing scheme.

Decisions on pricing are the most important in marketing. Pricing is at the heart of all marketing strategies. You could be right in your decisions related to product planning, distribution, promotion and advertising but one erroneous pricing decision can nullify the things you did correctly.

Consider, therefore, the following factors when fixing your price:

- Potential demand for the product
- Time it takes before the product yields profits
- Elasticity of demand
- Target groups
- Promotional strategy that you employ and at how much
- Necessary distribution arrangements
- Stage of the product life-cycle of your product.

The decision on proper price-setting may be further complicated by your company's objectives. Sometimes, maximizing profit may take the backseat to other goals like capturing a bigger slice of the market or hounding out a competitor.

Entrepreneurs now consider several objectives in pricing their products. Some of the more important ones that you can consider are the following:

Penetration Pricing. Here, you set the price of your products and services artificially low—the lowest possible that enables you to sell at the most volume while allowing a reasonable profit. Your target here is to discourage competitors from entering the market and gaining a big market share.

Premium Pricing. Use a high price where you have a product with unique features or a strong competitive advantage. Years ago, at the beginning of the power crisis, the first distributors of emergency lights charged premium prices. These distributors made a "killing" by engaging in competitive pricing. However, pricing had to level off when more businessmen entered the competition.

Price Skimming. In price skimming, a high price is fixed on account of a substantial competitive advantage. However, the advantage is not sustainable. The high price tends to attract new competitors into the market, and the price inevitably falls due to increased supply. Manufacturers of the latest cell phone models use this approach.

Economy Pricing. This is a no-frills low price. The cost of marketing and manufacture are kept at a minimum. Supermarkets often have economy brands for consumer products like detergent, cooking oil and toilet paper.

Ethical Pricing. Social responsibility to the public is the policy followed in this case. This is true of special medicines where the public good is involved.

Product Line Pricing. Some products are difficult to sell without having a full line of products. When you market lipsticks, you may have to sell as well nail polish so you can offer matching colors for lip and nail wear.

Fixing a Price to Reduce the Loss. Sometimes you have to sell your product below cost in order to increase your capacity utilization and recover losses due to fixed costs.

Fixing a Price in Line with Competition. In this case, the price is fixed based on the prices set by your competitors and all you do is "follow the leader."

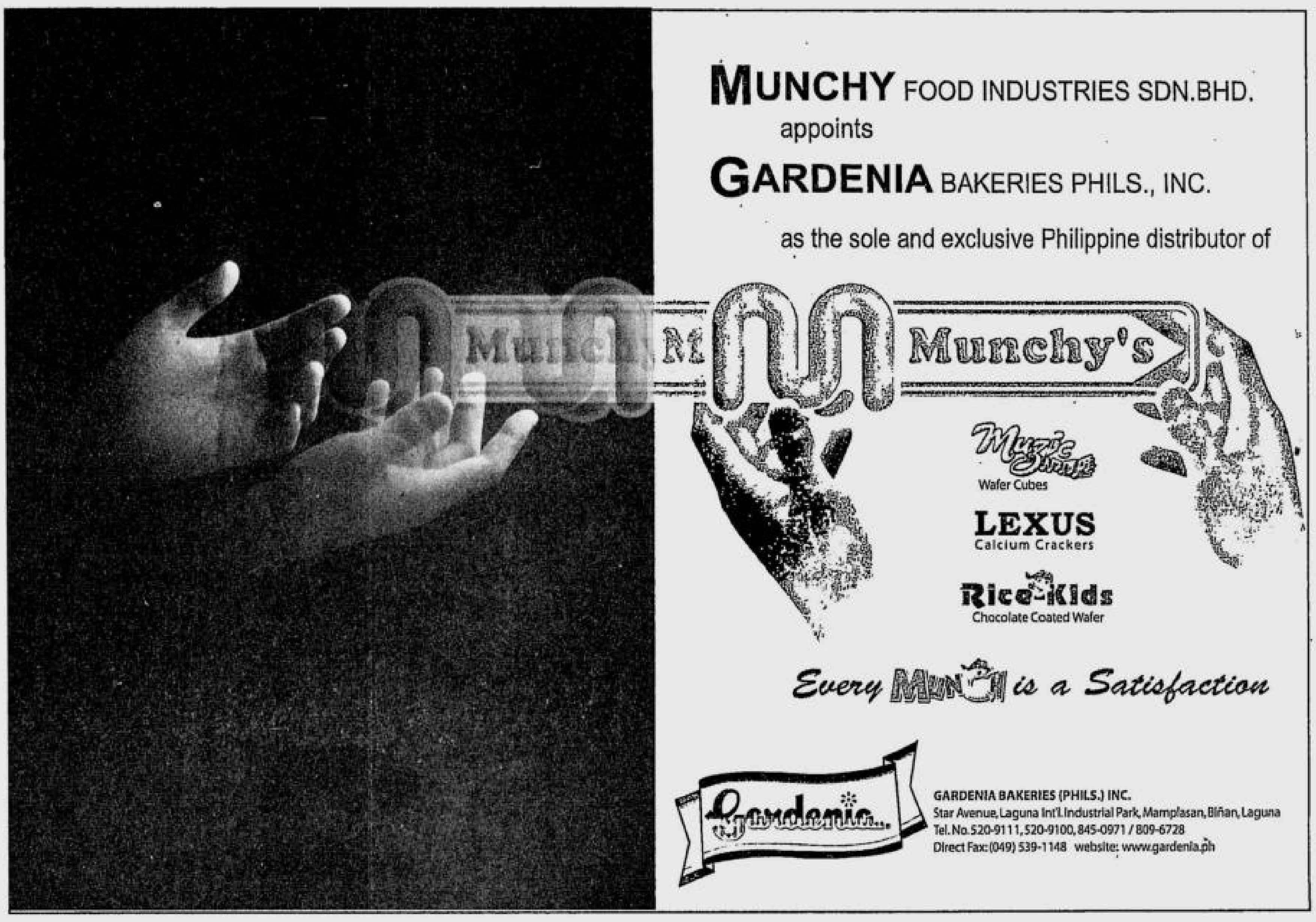
These are just some of the main pricing strategies employed by experienced entrepreneurs.

As an entrepreneur, you need to experiment with price changes. Companies with relatively stable profit for years may at times lower prices to increase share of the market.

You may enter into price agreements where you meet with competitors to discuss as to what amount you would sell your products.

Always remember to consider four factors before arriving at price decision: pricing objectives; the value-added demands of customers; costs and competition. Each of these factors has many sub-factors to consider but by systematically asking and answering questions about them, you'll clarify your thinking, define your marketing situation and select the pricing strategy that best fits your situation.

("Growing Your Business" is a weekly series for forward-looking small enterprises who need guidance in their expansion and growth stages. It is a service to the SME community by the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries.)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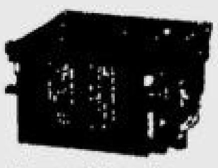
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Editor Louie C. Camino

SEVENTIES DRAMA "Dekada '70" starring Christopher de Leon and Vilma Santos, directed by Chito Roño

'Dekada '70' is going to New York and 'Magnifico' is off to Montreal

MAGICAL AND MOVING 'Magnifico' (Jiro Manio in title role) by Maryo de los Reyes

More Pinoy movies take part in international filmfests

By Marinel R. Cruz

TWO Filipino films will have their world premiere in international film festivals this year.

Chito Roño's "Dekada '70" will be featured at the Asian American International Film Festival (AAIFF) this month, according to the filmmaker himself. Maryo J. de los Reyes' "Magnifico" will be showcased at the Montreal World Film Festival in August, according to production designer and line producer Tatus Aldana.

Another film, Erik Matti's "Prosti," was shown at the Far East Film Festival in Italy last April 27.

The AAIF, which screens works by artists of Asian descent, will run at the Asian Society Museum in New York from June 20 to 29.

Founded in 1978, the festival has become a leading showcase for Asian American film and video.

Grand slam

"Dekada '70" is the story of a family caught in the middle of the tumultuous Seventies. At the 26th Gawad Urian awards last May 17, it tied with Gil Portes' "Mga Munting Tinig" for best picture. It earlier won the best picture award, too, from the Star Awards.

"Dekada '70" also won for Piolo Pascual all the best supporting actor awards from the award-giving bodies.

The grand slam put him in the same league as "Dekada" costar Vilma Santos, who swept all the best actress awards in 1989 for her performance in "Relasyon," and Sharon Cuneta, who achieved the same feat in 1996 for "Madrasta."

"'Magnifico,' which received its official invitation last week from Montreal festival selector Hannah Fisher, will be shown in the weeklong Montreal film fest along with movies from more than 60 countries from around the world," said Aldana.

PROSTITUTION issues in Erik Matti's "Prosti" starring Aubrey Miles

The movie, originally titled "Magnifico Madyikero," is based on Michiko Yamamoto's 1st prize winning script from the 2001 Film Development Foundation. It is the story of a good-hearted boy named Magnifico (Jiro Manio) who acts as the tie that binds together the lives of his sick grandmother (Gloria Romero) and of his own loving parents (Albert Martinez and Lorna Tolentino).

Aldana is part of Jaggs Entertainment, which "Mano Po" director Joel Lamangan partly owns.

"Dekada '70," "Prosti," "Mano Po," Joey Javier Reyes' "Masikip . . . Mainit, Paraisong Parisukat," were included in a short list of movies that Fisher was interested in, according to Aldana.

The Montreal film fest, which features the works of first-time as well as seasoned filmmakers, is on Aug. 27 to Sept. 7, 2003.

The Montreal event is 27 years old and remains the only film festival in all of North America to be acknowledged by the International Federation of Film Producers Association (IFFPA). It is open to all cinematic genres and trends from around the world.

"Prosti," the only Philippine film invited to the Far East Film Festival in Italy, was praised by European filmmakers who dominated the festival.

The movie, which starred sexy star Aubrey Miles, was also invited to film festivals in Belgium, Spain and Korea, according to director Matti.

No self-pity

"People involved in the (Far East) festival had very low expectations of the quality of Philippine movies," the young Matti told INQUIRER Entertainment last week. "They were surprised when they watched 'Prosti'."

He described "Prosti" as "a prostitution movie that does not have self-pity."

"It takes no stand on prostitution issues and simply presents things as they are, which is not normally done in sex films," said Matti, quoting a foreign filmmaker who watched "Prosti" in the festival.

"Prosti" won for Jay Manalo his first-ever best actor award from the Urian for his performance as a pimp in love with a prostitute (Miles).

Lamangan's "Mano Po" focuses on the Chinese community as seen through the lives of the rich and influential Go clan, with Eddie Garcia as the Chinese patriarch, Boots Anson-Roa as his Filipino wife and Tirso Cruz III and Amy Austria as their children.

"Mano Po" has won many, if controversial, awards in last year's Metro Manila Film Festival, including the best picture trophy.

"Masikip, Mainit . . . Paraisong Parisukat" is a remake of the Elwood Perez film about the lives of a group of workers in a shoe store.

It starred Joyce Jimenez and Manalo, her former real-life boyfriend.

"MASIKIP, MAINIT..." by Joey Javier Reyes starring Jay Manalo and Joyce Jimenez

DID YOU KNOW...

Around midnight one weekend in April, actress-singer **Vina Morales** and a woman companion arrived at the crowded Cafe Havana in Greenbelt 3. The café was filled mostly with foreigners, which the place seems to attract more than Filipinos, and among Vina's fellow Pinoys was who else but former congressman **Jose Zubiri** of Bukidnon, dad of her ex-boyfriend, Rep. **Miguel Zubiri**. Ex's dad and Vina apparently saw, but ignored, each other, according to witnesses. Vina stayed for a long time, standing at the bar and shooting the breeze with foreigners.

AGUSTIN RANDY HORMILLOSA

Marvin Agustin's room with an Edsa view

/C2

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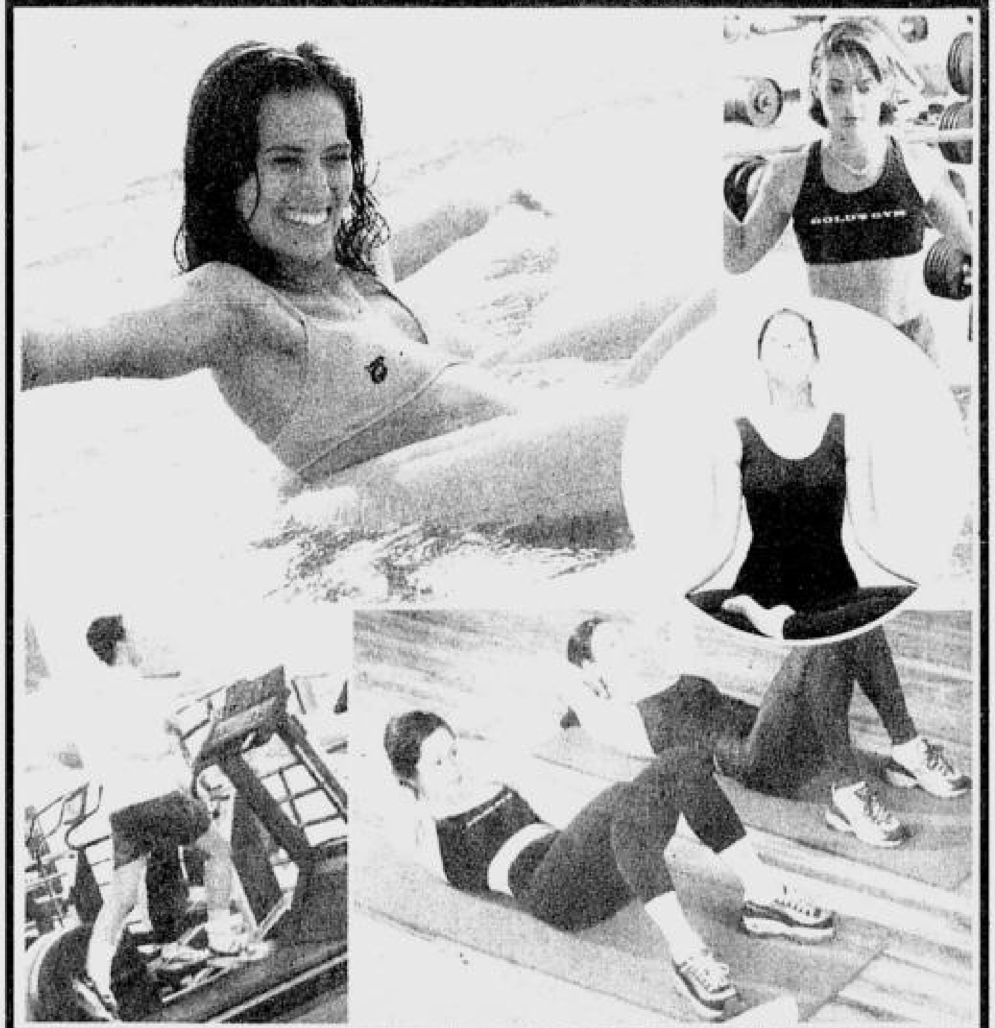

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Marvin's sanctuary on the 29th floor

HELLO! Marvin's room with a view allows him to watch the traffic and the skyline.

PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

OLD AND HOLED, his flannel PJs are still useful.

By Leah Salterio

"MY SANCTUARY" is how 24-year-old Marvin Agustin describes his Mandaluyong City condo unit, which has an airy veranda with a sweeping view of Edsa and the Ortigas business district.

"When I don't have any tapings or shootings, I just lie in bed and open the curtains so I can see the city," Marvin says. "It's very relaxing seeing the skyscrapers, the MRT and the vehicles along Edsa."

"After work, it's nice to come home here because it's quiet."

Marvin, who joined show business just seven years ago, moved out of his family's home in Fairview, Quezon City after he bought the condo unit. He is one of the young stars who are known for handling their finances wisely and well. He has also set up his own small businesses.

In his condo unit, Marvin lives with a maid who cooks, cleans the house and puts his things in order, and a driver who is his constant companion.

Given the limited space of most condo units, Marvin has adopted a minimalist style for his pad.

"This is ideal for me," he says of his new home. "I don't really need a big one."

His unit has monochromatic white walls and furniture. Even the bed and pillows and the sofa in the receiving room are white.

> 'It's very relaxing seeing the skyscrapers, the MRT and the vehicles along Edsa. After work, it's nice to come home here because it's quiet'

Beside the bed is a table with his computer.

"When I wake up in the morning, I just turn on my computer and play the music that I want to listen to," he says. "I like Craig David, Cold Play, Robbie Williams. But my favorite song now is Keith Martin's 'Because of You.'"

OUT OF THE CLOSET

He keeps in his computer a file of the photographs he has taken since he took on photography as a hobby, including a pictorial of commercial model and TV host Cindy Kurleto at the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

"She's a very beautiful subject," Marvin says of Cindy. "She's perfect from any angle."

PICTURE PERFECT is his favorite photo model, Cindy Kurleto.

A blank wall in Marvin's living room serves as a projection screen when he and his friends watch movies on DVD. The young actor has more than 300 DVD titles.

"There are movies I don't get tired of watching, like 'Gladiator,' 'Moulin Rouge' and 'Godfather'," Marvin allows. "I also keep a copy of 'Rizal' with Cesar Montano."

His bedtime companions are mostly inspirational, spiritual novels. His favorite book is Paulo Coelho's "The Alchemist."

In his living room are also photography books by Vanity Fair's Annie Leibowitz.

Marvin often has a dizzying schedule. After starring in Star Cinema's recent blockbuster, "Ang Tanging Ina," with Ai-Ai de las Alas, he is now filming Marilou Diaz-Abaya's remake of her own "Moral."

On Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays, he tapes for ABS-CBN's new soap, "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas." On Tuesdays, he tapes for the sitcom "Whattamen."

Given the chance to return to school, Martin would like to take up a filmmaking at the New York University (NYU). He has started directing MTVs and hopes to work on a TV show or a movie in the future.

"I already checked up the film curriculum at NYU," he says. "If I can take a break from acting next year, I'd love to go to New York and study again."

"Directing gives me a personal fulfillment. Besides, it's different to be in school. Last year, I enrolled in management of the arts at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), where my classmates were Laurice Guillen and Nestor Torre."

Clothes-wise, Marvin has simple yet elegant tastes. While the bulk of his clothes are kept in the family's house in Fairview, Marvin has two large closets in his condo unit for his casual, formal and everyday wear. He shops at Linea Uomo.

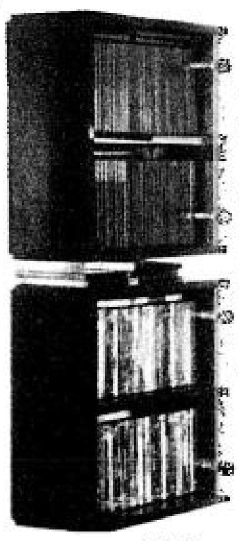
"When I have specific requirements for 'Asap,' like the '70s look, I go to Greenhills," he says. "For tapings or shootings, my clothes are in huge Tupperware containers. It was Judy Ann (Santos) who suggested that I carry my stuff in those boxes. If you just put your shirts or pants in the car, they easily get crumpled. But if they're in those boxes, *mas maayos.*"

Marvin rarely buys formal wear, although he invests in suits. He goes to Linea Italia also, as well as Paul Smith or Custom National.

"Suits are investments for male stars like me," Marvin says. "We need to buy good suits for long-term use. Sometimes, I also go to Inno Sotto for my suits because he makes them perfect for me. I like the way they fit. When I have to attend awards nights or other formal gatherings, Inno provides me with what I need to wear. JC Buendia also makes suits for me."

Favorite sleepwear. "My flannel pajamas which are really old and some even have holes already. If it's cold, I wear a shirt or a tank top."

Favorite formal wear. "Suits from Paul Smith, Custom National and my Theodore Spago from Linea."



DVDs.

Favorite watches. "For my formal wear, I wear my IWC or my Panerai. When I'm in casual getup, I wear my Technomarine."

Favorite shoes. "Steve Madden. They're old but I like wearing them. When I go formal, I wear Gucci. I used to buy them at Rustan's, but they moved the Gucci boutique to Subic. For my rugged get-up, I use Striders, which I also endorse."

Favorite rubber shoes. "My white denim Nikes which are very old, but I still love to wear them."

Favorite jeans. "I go for the fit and not for the brand. DKNY fits me nicely."

Favorite short sleeves. "DKNY and Fink."

Favorite long sleeves. "My pin-striped Monteana Poleone and my checkered Dario Domine. They're very flexible, I can wear them for both casual and formal. I can wear them with denims or even with a suit."

Favorite perfume. "Curve by Liz Claiborne, L'Occitane which I buy from the US or at Rustan's."

Favorite bag: "My orange Spy back-pack. *Kung saan-saan na nakarating 'yan.*"

Favorite boxer shorts. "Lee and the printed one given to me by a fan."

Favorite jacket. "Red Prague and my blue Gap windbreaker."

Favorite cap. "The Nike white denim given by a fan. It's also old but I always use it."

MAD ABOUT MADDEN. This old pair by Steve Madden is one of his favorites.

HEAD ON. The white Nike cap was given by a fan.

WHITE ON WHITE. White bedsheets and pillows in a white room for the star.

HERE AND THERE. The actor's clothes are in these condo unit closets as well as in the family's Fairview home.

Ma-Yi production wins Obie ensemble award

GOOD news from New York City: At the 48th Annual Obie (Off-Broadway) Awards last May 19, Ma-Yi Theater Co.'s production of "The Romance of Magno Rubio" received the Obie ensemble award.

Ma-Yi is a not-for-profit professional theater dedicated to developing new plays and performance works about the Asian American experience. Its executive director is **Jorge Ortoll**, and its artistic director is **Ralph Peña**.

"The Romance of Magno Rubio," an adaptation of expatriate writer **Carlos Bulosan's** short story about a Filipino farm worker in post-Depression California, won Obie Awards for director **Loy Arcenas**, playwright **Lonnie Carter**, lyricist Ralph Peña and actors **Art Acuña**, **Ramon de Ocampo**, **Ron Domingo**, **Jojo Gonzalez** and **Orlando Pabotoy**.

This isn't the first time that Ma-Yi has shone at the Obie Awards. Its production of "Flipzoids" in 1997 won an acting award for its lead actress, **Ching Vlades-Aran**.

Last year, Ma-Yi itself received an Obie grant for its continued excellence in producing new Asian American works. And Loy Arcenas has been honored with an Obie for Sustained Excellence in Set Design.

Many famous theater-TV-film artists received their first recognition from the Obies, including **Meryl Streep, James Earl Jones, Dustin Hoffman, William Macy** and **Edward Albee.**

Other Obie recipients this year are **Ed Norton**, **Lynn Redgrave**, **Rosemary Harris**, **Fiona Shaw**, **Simon Russell Beale**, **David Greenspan** and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. The Ma-Yi awardees are in very good company, indeed.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Even better news: Local theater lovers will be able to view original award-winning Ma-Yi production of "The Romance of Magno Rubio" when it is performed at the CCP on July 16 as part of the Sangandaan Festival. Get your tickets early!

'Eroica'

TICKETS to "Eroica: Beethoven's Third," a special concert of the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra with pianist **Albert Tiu** and conductor **Julian Quirit** on June 14 at the CCP, are now available at TicketWorld outlets.

"Eroica" is the first full-length classical concert of the SMPO this year. The orchestra will be performing Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnol* (Op. 34), Grieg's *Piano Concerto in A minor* (Op. 16), and Beethoven's *Symphony No.3 in E-flat* (Op. 55), more popularly known as *Eroica*. Call 891-5610.

'From Hell'

AT 9 p.m. on Sunday, June 8, Star Movies screens the **Johnny Depp** starrer, "From Hell." The film shows how the serial killer, Jack the Ripper, stalked the streets of London in 1888, slaying prostitutes and crudely dissecting their bodies.

Depp plays Inspector Frederick Abberline, who smokes opium and drinks absinthe in order to evoke hallucinatory visions that provide him with clues to catch Jack the Ripper. **Heather Graham** co-stars.

'Hari sa Hari'

IN 1986, acclaimed Filipino director **Eddie Romero** was tapped to co-direct the Filipino-Chinese co-production, "Hari sa Hari" (King and Emperor) with Chinese filmmakers **Hsiao Lang** and **Chou Lili**. The historical epic traced the voyage to and through China in the 14th century of the King of Sulu, Paduka Pahala, to forge stronger links with Emperor Zhu Di. Sadly the Sulu ruler died while he was in China.

We were privileged to be a part of the cast of that huge production, which was filmed mostly in China. The film's Filipino stars included **Vic Vargas**, **Rosemarie Sonora**, **Dan Alvaro**, **Tanya Gomez**, **Isabel Rivas**, **Ruben Rustia** and **Alan Bautista**, and its Chinese stars included some of the best and most popular screen talents in the People's Republic of China.

The Chinese government spared no effort to make the scenes shot in China monumental. It provided a total of 10,000 extras, mostly army troopers who were put in period costumes to look like Emperor Zhu Di's palace guards and soldiers.

We were even allowed to shoot in the Forbidden City, a rare privilege granted to only one other foreign production, **Bernardo Bertolucci's** "The Last Emperor." The five months we spent shooting "Hari sa Hari" in China were truly unforgettable.

At 6 p.m. on June 8, the CCP and the Embassy of China will hold a special screening of "Hari sa Hari" at the Little Theater, in celebration of Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day. There will also be an exhibit of **Steve Zhao's** photographs focusing on the Chinese people's culture and varied lifestyle.

Film buffs interested in viewing "Hari sa Hari" are invited to call the CCP Film Division at 832-1125, locals 1704 and 1705.

ANC to cover food and drink show

SHOW TIME

THIS year's fifth international food and beverage exposition 2003 promises to be the biggest event in the food and beverage industry.

To be held from June 25 to 28 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, the expo is expected to be attended by more than 200 foreign and local exhibitors. It will be covered by the ANC.

Presented by San Miguel Beer Corporation, the show will feature the latest food, drink and processed food products from around the world.

The most awaited expo event will feature complete equipment, ingredients and other supplies from the food and beverage business. This include packaging materials and systems, refrigeration distribution equipment and other production equipment and supplies.

Major sponsors are Unilever Philippines, Department of Agriculture, Casino Filipino, ABS-CBN News Channel, Citibank and Flavours Magazine.

The expo will also offer seminars on various topics of interest for professionals in the food and beverage business.

The expo is organized by the Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers, Manila host chapter, with the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and Time Foundation, Inc.

Engr. Danny P. Hernandez serves as the expo's over-all chair, with Mayose G. Bautista as project director.

Newcomer in concert

SINGING newcomer Jenny Hernandez will showcase her talent in her first solo concert, "Jenny Revealed," 8:30 tonight at the Manila Hotel Fiesta Pavilion.

HERNANDEZ

Cocktails and buffet start at 6:30 p.m.

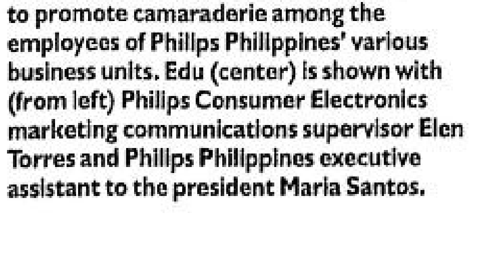
Jenny is a dancer of stature at Marymount School and at Southville International School, where she finished a course in international marketing.

In her concert, she will sing and relate with the music industry's favorites–Rannie Raymundo, vocal sextet The Company, singer-model Lance Raymundo and the Solid Gold Dancers, with the special participation of MTV VJ and TV host KC Montero.

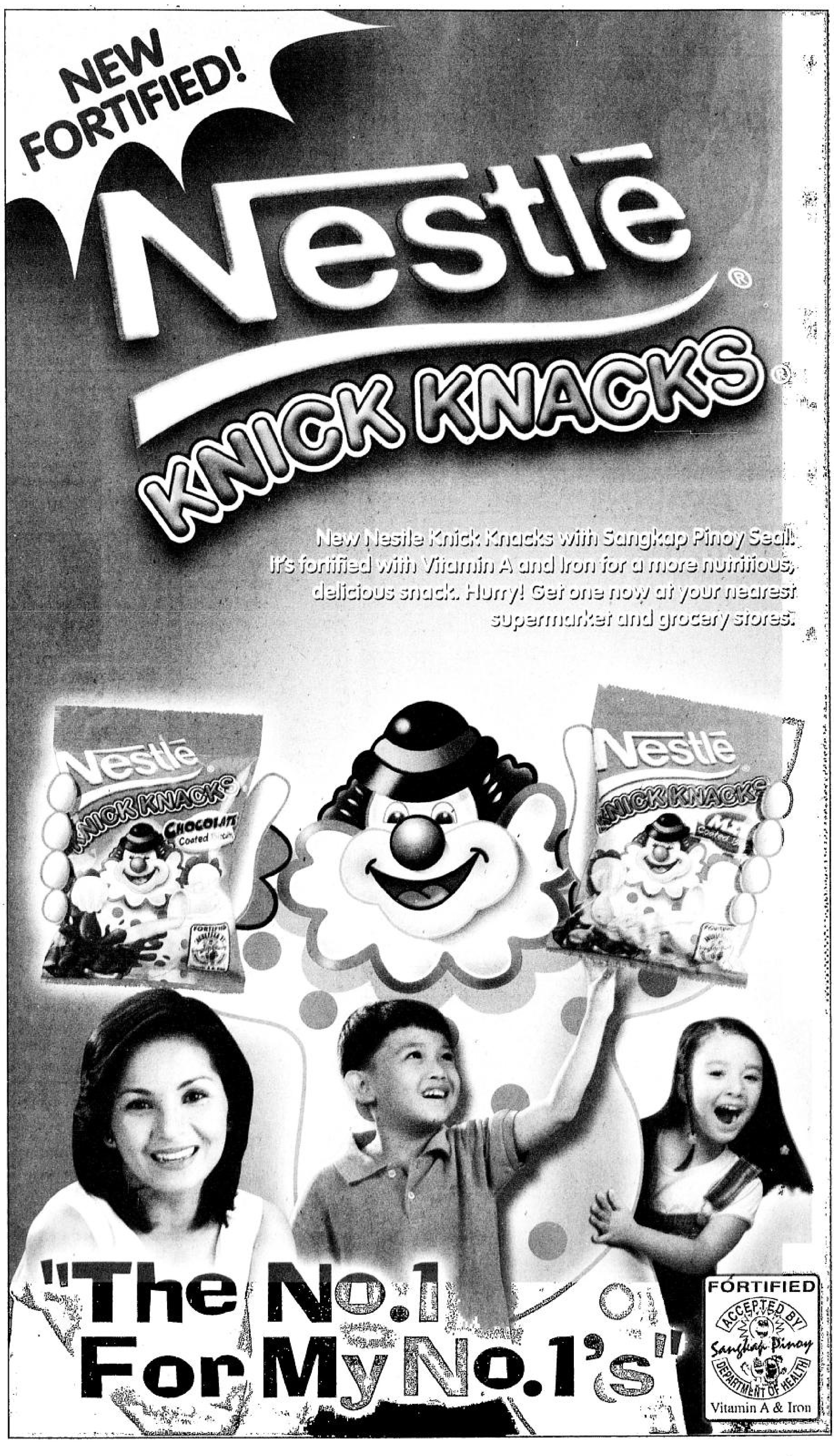
"Jenny Revealed" will be directed by Angie Magbanua, with Toti Fuentes as musical director, Mel Feliciano as choreographer, Kitchie Molina as vocal coach and Jun Jun Cambe as costume designer.

The concert is presented by Resources Freight Philippines Inc. as a benefit for Mumunting Anghel.

For inquiries call 829-1346 (Janet Altamirano or Che Cunanan) or Manila Hotel at 527-0011 (banquet and sales).



GOLF TOURNAMENT
Top TV host Edu Manzano recently joined Philips executives and employees for a friendly game of golf at the Philips Fellowship Golf Tournament. Held at the Manila Golf and Country Club, the games were organized to promote camaraderie among the employees of Philips Philippines' various business units. Edu (center) is shown with (from left) Philips Consumer Electronics marketing communications supervisor Elen Torres and Philips Philippines executive assistant to the president Maria Santos.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1 PAKNERS	1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY	ArtFilm 1 AUTO FOCUS (Exclusive) 12:30 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00 9:10 11:20	THX 1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 THE MATRIX RELOADED	2 THE MATRIX RELOADED	2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 9:55	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 2:00 4:10, 6:20 10:40	2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:30 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10		GUARANTEED SEATS 3 AGENT CODY BANKS 12:40 2:50 5:00 7:10, 9:20, 11:30	3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 ANG TANGING INA	4 FRIDA		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS 1:50 4:15, 6:40 9:05 11:30	4 AGENT CODY BANKS
	5 AGENT CODY BANKS		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 THE MATRIX RELOADED [illegible]	5 ANG TANGING INA
	6 ANG TANGING INA			
	HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	FRIDA
2 (SDDS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 (DTS)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 GOLD	HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	AGENT CODY BANKS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	ANG TANGING INA
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8	ANG TANGING INA
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	PAKNER

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA ①②③

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	PAKNEP

starmall Movies

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	PAKNER
3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
5	KAPIT BAHAY

METROPOLIS star

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	DAYO
3	PAKNER
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	KAPIT BAHAY
6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

M star

www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	ANG TANGING INA

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) TEL. 8934225, 8922503

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	WALANG KAPALIT
2	X- MEN-2

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC

tel 930.9515

1	
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	PAKNER
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	KAPIT BAHAY

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	KAPIT BAHAY
5	PAKNER
6	ANG TANGING INA
7 (DTS)	AGENT CODY BANKS
8 (SDDS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9 (DOLBY)	FRIDA

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	KAPIT BAHAY
2	PAKNER
3	ANG TANGING INA
4 (SDDS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	PAKNER
6 (DOLBY)	ANG TANGING INA
7 (DTS)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
8	FRIDA
9	AGENT CODY BANKS

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1	AGENT CODY BANKS
2 (SDDS)	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	PAKNER
4 (DOLBY)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	KAPIT BAHAY

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	PAKNER
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	AGENT CODY BANKS
4	KAPIT BAHAY
5 (SDDS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	PAKNER

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	PAKNER

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SEX & ZEN
Lords	KAPIT BAHAY
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	PAKNER
3	AGENT CODY BANKS
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	KAPIT BAHAY
4	PAKNER
5	AGENT CODY BANKS

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	
2	

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	PAKNER
2	ANG TANGING INA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1	PAKNER
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 (SDDS)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 (DTS)	AGENT CODY BANKS
6	FRIDA
7	KAPITBAHAY

Farmers Plaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0026

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	PAKNER
3 (DTS)	ANG TANGING INA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	PAKNER
2 (DTS)	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	ANG TANGING INA
2 (DOLBY)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 (DTS)	AGENT CODY BANKS
4	PAKNER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	JOHNNY ENGLISH
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	PAKNER
3 (DOLBY)	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 (DTS)	THE MATRIX RELOADED

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 (DTS)	PAKNER
3	ANG TANGING INA

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	KAULAYAW
2	PAKNER
3 (DTS)	ANG TANGING INA
4	KAPIT BAHAY

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	PAKNER
3 (DTS)	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	AGENT CODY BANKS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	AGENT CODY BANKS
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	PAKNER

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1	AGENT CODY BANKS
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	PAKNER

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	ANGER MANAGEMENT
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	PAKNER
4 (DOLBY)	THE MATRIX RELOADED

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	
2 (DTS)	

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	BAYARAN
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DAYOT
2	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	THE MATRIX RELOADED

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	PAKNER
2	ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4	WHAT A GIRL WANTS

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	PAKNER
3 (DOLBY)	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 (DTS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL

Level 4

Festival Supermall Filinvest - Alabang

Tel. 85035-71 to 72

AGENT CODY BANKS

NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR

4173888

1	AGENT CODY BANKS
2	THE MATRIX RELOADED
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	PAKNERS
5	ANG TANGING INA
6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7	ANG KAPITBAHAY
8	ANG TANGING INA

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522 -7161416

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	THE MATRIX RELOADED
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	ANG KAPITBAHAY
5	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6	FRIDA
7	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8	AGENT CODY BANKS
9	PAKNERS
10	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	PAKNERS
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	FRIDA
4	AGENT CODY BANKS
5	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6	ANG TANGING INA
7	THE MATRIX RELOADED
8	PAKNERS
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	ANG TANGING INA
11	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
12	ANG KAPITBAHAY

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
3	FRIDA
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	AGENT CODY BANKS
6	THE MATRIX RELOADED
7	ANG KAPITBAHAY
8	X-MEN 2
9	ANG TANGING INA
10	ANG TANGING INA
11	PAKNERS
12	ANG TANGING INA

SM MEGAMALL

6331001 • 6329401

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	RING 0
3	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	AGENT CODY BANKS
6	FRIDA
7	ANG TANGING INA
8	ANG TANGING INA
9	PAKNERS
10	ANG TANGING INA
11	HOW TO LOSE A GUY ...
12	ANG KAPITBAHAY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	ANG KAPITBAHAY
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	PAKNERS
6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7	AGENT CODY BANKS
8	THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM SOUTHMALL

8066888

1	FRIDA
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	THE MATRIX RELOADED
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	PAKNERS
6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7	PAKNERS
8	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9	AGENT CODY BANKS
10	ANG KAPITBAHAY

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	PHONE BOOTH
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	A MAN APART
4	ANG KAPITBAHAY
5	PAKNERS
6	ANG TANGING INA
7	ANG TANGING INA
8	THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	PHONE BOOTH
2	CLOSED
3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	THE MATRIX RELOADED
6	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
7	CLOSED
8	A MAN APART

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4	ANG KAPITBAHAY
5	THE MATRIX RELOADED
6	PAKNERS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1	AGENT CODY BANKS
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	PAKNERS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	PAKNERS
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	ANG TANGING INA

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	THE MATRIX RELOADED
2	PAKNERS
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	HOW TO LOSE A GUY ...
5	ANG TANGING INA
6	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1	ANG TANGING INA
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	PAKNERS
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
4	A MAN APART

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8076

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY 11:40 FS/12:10 MF/6:40/8:50/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END
2	AGENT CODY BANKS 11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

Matinee : P100.00 • Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate P120.00 • After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS @ Robinsons Malls

call-a-movie: 536- 7812

NOW SHOWING

Galleria

632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

THX	BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:50,3:00,5:10, 7:20,9:30LMF,11:10 END
2	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3	AGENT CODY BANKS
4	HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
5	ANG TANGING INA
6	MATRIX RELOADED
7	MATRIX RELOADED
8	FRIDA
9	PAKNERS
10	ANG KAPITBAHAY

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema · P75 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita

536 -7809- 12

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	MATRIX RELOADED
3	ANG TANGING INA
4	AGENT CODY BANKS
5	HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
6	FRIDA
7	PAKNERS

Metro East - Marcos hway

682- 8193 / 8280

1	AGENT CODY BANKS
2	MATRIX RELOADED
3	HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	ANG TANGING INA
6	PAKNERS
7	FRIDA
8	ANG KAPITBAHAY

Novaliches

935- 3229 - 30

1	MATRIX RELOADED
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4	AGENT CODY BANKS
5	HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
6	PAKNERS
7	FRIDA
8	ANG KAPITBAHAY

Malabon Citisquare

288-0985 / 288-2575

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	PAKNERS
4	ANG KAPITBAHAY

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.

(045)875-1927
(045)961-5270

1	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
2	ANG KAPITBAHAY
3	PAKNERS
4	ANG TANGING INA
5	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6	MATRIX RELOADED

Imus

471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	MATRIX RELOADED
2	AGENT CODY BANKS
3	PAKNERS
4	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5	ANG TANGING INA
6	ANG KAPIT BAHAY

Sta. Rosa Laguna

(049)837-0907

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	ANG TANGING INA
3	PAKNERS
4	MATRIX RELOADED
5	AGENT CODY BANKS

Bacolod

441- 0453 / 0459

1	MATRIX RELOADED
2	HOW TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4	A MAN APART
5	SOLARIS
6	ANG TANGING INA

Iloilo

336- 8077 - 78

1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2	MATRIX RELOADED
3	A MAN APART
4	HOT TO LOOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
5	PHONEBOOTH
6	ANG TANGING INA

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Patricia for a good cause

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

SEXY star **Patricia Javier** has taken on the cause of special children.

Patricia signed up to be one of the incorporators of a foundation supporting the students of Maryridge School for special children. When Patricia celebrated her birthday last May 16, she chose to share her blessings with the special kids of Maryridge.

"I just wanted my birthday to be more meaningful this year," Patricia said. "I wanted to have fun with those children on my birthday."

The party that Patricia hosted for the students at Maryridge turned out to be a children's party. The teachers, led by **Elvie Matias**, helped her organize the celebration.

TOUCHED by her first visit to a school for special children, Patricia Javier returns to celebrate her birthday with them.

Patricia treated the students to a McDonald's lunch. Then she joined them in parlor games and in watching two clowns perform magic tricks.

The students and their families were also treated to cotton candy and dirty ice cream in the party that lasted till 5 p.m.

After blowing the candles on her huge birthday cake, Patricia called the the kids one by one onstage and gave them gifts.

She was teary-eyed when the children presented their gifts to her. The pre-vocational students had baked chocolate crinkles and a graham biscuits cake the night before for Patricia. Some of the special students even made cards especially for her.

With Patricia at the party were her equally beautiful mother, her youthful-looking grandmother, her brothers, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Last December, Patricia was invited to the Christmas party of Maryridge School. Her heart went out to the kids who have autism or attention-deficit disorder. She sang and danced for them.

That first encounter with special children left her deeply touched, and she vowed to do something for them in the future.

NO TO BOLD. Krista Ranillo sticks to drama.

Maryridge School was set up by seven partners to help out children with mental retardation, autism, Down Syndrome, learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

The school is at 64 F. Cruz St. (beside the Presentation of the Child Jesus Church on Aguirre Avenue) in BF Homes, Parañaque (Phase III). It offers classes for the pre-vocational age group, and has developed a curriculum for differently-abled children ages 10 years old and above.

Maryridge can be reached at 829-1871. Look for Teacher **Elvie** or Teacher **Allen**.

Her dad's daughter

ACTING runs in her blood, so it is not surprising that **Krista Ranillo**, eldest daughter of **Mat Ranillo III** and **Linda Tupaz**, has also joined show biz.

Since she was a kid, movie and TV producers, talent managers and publicists have been hounding the pretty Krista to join the business. But she didn't give it a serious thought till she was in her teens.

Krista, whose name came from the Lenten play "Kristo" which always starred her dad as Christ, is now seriously following in the footsteps of dad Archie. She apparently is beginning to show the same acting prowess that has made the Ranillos a by-word in the entertainment industry.

Krista is in several soaps.

PATRICIA/ C6

Live Satellite feed from Panama
On June 04, 2003, she will walk unto the stage many queens have walked. Will she take home the crown?
The 2003 Miss Universe
Carla Gay Balingit
Vital Statistics: 34 1/2-24-34 1/2
Birthdate: September 25, 1983
Age: 19
Height: 5'7"
Weight: 114 lbs.
Birthplace: San Fernando City, Pampanga
Graduated from the University of the Assumption-Pampanga High School and the Holy Angel University in Angeles City.
RPN JUNE 04 WED 9:30AM
Primetime Telecast 7:00PM
Brought to you by:
SkinWhite Daily color. · extraderm · SMART Simply Amazing! · Nestle Calcium Plus · Lux Super Rich · Lactoserum Lactic acid LACTACYD · Pizza Hut · Samsung · Standard · Cream Silk · Pepsi with a kiss of lemon! · Manila Bulletin · Campbell's

MASAMANG PAKIRAMDAM?
Buti na lang may Pharex Medicines -- ang abot-kaya at mabisang solusyon sa sakit.
Ang Pharex ay may mga gamot laban sa iba't-ibang uri ng sakit gaya ng ubo, sakit ng ulo, sakit ng katawan, lagnat, trangkaso at impeksiyon. Kaya kapag sumama ang pakiramdam, mag-Pharex na!
PHAREX Medicines
Presyong Tapat.
Alagang Sapat.
PARACETAMOL
BROMHEXINE
CARBOCISTEINE
IBUPROFEN PARACETAMOL
PHAREX VITAMIN B1+B6+B12

SPECIAL students surround birthday girl Patricia at Maryridge School.

Patricia for a good cause

From page C5

She has also done several Regal movies.

"I know it would be easier to be noticed if I joined the bold and sexy league, but I am confident that I can still pursue acting even without being a bold star," Krista asserts. "I have nothing against bold stars. This is just a choice that I have made."

Krista is being managed by **Wyngard Tracy's** Artistation, which also handles **Aiko Melendez, Maricel Soriano, Miriam Quiambao, Roselle Nava, Jaya, Side A** and **Freestyle.**

Stars in Senate

VIOLINIST **John Lesaca** sent a text message to say that show biz stars will be in the Senate tomorrow, Tuesday, when Sen. **Tessie Aquino Oreta** tackles the anti-piracy bill. The stars are optimistic that the bill will be approved so that manufacturers of fake video and music discs will face tougher penalties.

The stars will be led by Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) chair **Bong Revilla Jr.**

'MAD' and sexy

SEXY stars **Maureen Larrazabal, Ara Mina** and **Diana Zubiri** are planning to mount a sexy concert titled "MAD," after their initials, at Ara Mina's restaurant, Osteria Italia on Tomas Morato, Quezon City. Ara plans to turn the restaurant into a bar and music lounge soon.

If the show clicks, they plan to bring it to a bigger venue like the Music Museum.

The sexy stars will sing in their negligees.

DID YOU KNOW...

Singer **Calvin Millado** and his wife **Muffin** were seen enjoying buffet breakfast on a rainy Friday at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City. Calvin's condo unit is just a stone's throw away from the hotel at the Ayala Center. Calvin appears to have put on weight after getting married early this year.

Crossover brings back Regine

SHOW TIME

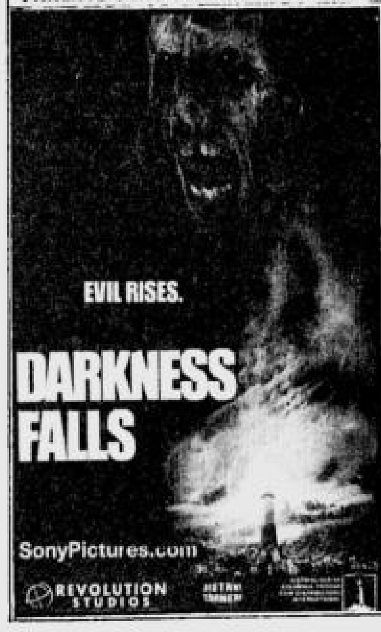
CROSSOVER 105.1 brings back Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez to the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Manila.

On June 11, experience another stellar performance from Regine as she gives a classy, powerful and utterly moving rendition of favorite Crossover tunes. The special show also features the current toast of the R&B scene, Kyla.

Also performing are vocal group The Opera and top session musicians.

Instrumental group Da Capo sets the mood at 8 p.m.

For ticket inquiries, call Crossover office at 712-9755 or 712-9764, Ticket World at 891-5610 or Captain's Bar at 750-8888.



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED: Some scenes may be inappropriate for children under age 13

EVIL RISES.
DARKNESS FALLS
SonyPictures.com
REVOLUTION STUDIOS

'Darkness Falls'

Scream all you can on June 4!

Legend says an old woman wrongly accused of a heinous crime was savagely slaughtered in the town of Darkness Falls 150 years ago. The vengeful spirit of 'the Tooth Fairy', hangs over the townspeople, ready to pounce on anyone who sees her in the dark.

A young man returns to this hometown to confront his haunted past, and perhaps save his childhood sweetheart and her younger brother from the unrelenting evil of the Tooth Fairy.

You'll never go in the dark alone again! Kakaba-kaba ka ba? Bring a date or the whole barkada -- and hold on for your dear life!

DON'T MISS AN ACHINGLY FUNNY MOVIE WITH ONE OF HOLLYWOOD'S MOST TALENTED FAMILIES
AN AYALA CINEMAS EXCLUSIVE
MICHAEL DOUGLAS & KIRK DOUGLAS
IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY
Some families can survive anything. Even each other.

Alex Gromberg (Michael Douglas) is a man caught in the middle. Trying to avoid the mistakes his father made, Alex is navigating the tricky roles of father, son, and husband.

Onscreen together for the first time in their careers, Michael Douglas and Kirk Douglas join their real-life relations (Cameron Douglas, Diana Douglas) in a story about the loving, frustrating, reassuring, insane, and ultimately inescapable bonds of family.

OPENS JUNE 11 EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3
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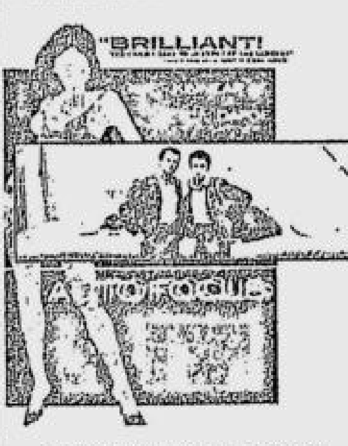

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A peek into the secret life of Hollywood celebrity known to audiences as the star of 1960s TV series Hogan's Heroes, Bob Crane. But behind the loving wife (RITA WILSON), the successful comedic career & the public adoration lies an obsession for the forbidden. Auto Focus chronicles Bob Crane's downward spiral into erotic addiction - from his promiscuous lifestyle & unconventional hobbies to his mysterious death.

Auto Focus creates an absorbing portrait of a man whose carnal hunger brought about his eventual down fall as an actor, a father & a man.

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Getting the alias was half the battle.
Surviving it is the other.
WHO IS CLETIS TOUT?
CHRISTIAN SLATER, RICHARD DREYFUSS, PORTIA DE ROSSI & TIM ALLEN

A prison escapee (Slater) assumes the identity of a deceased man named Cletis Tout, but soon discovers that someone had a contract out on Cletis life, so now the escapee has to deal with not only the police, but a hitman (Allen) as well

"A gem of a romantic crime comedy that turns out to be clever, amusing and unpredictable."
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WHO IS CLETIS TOUT?
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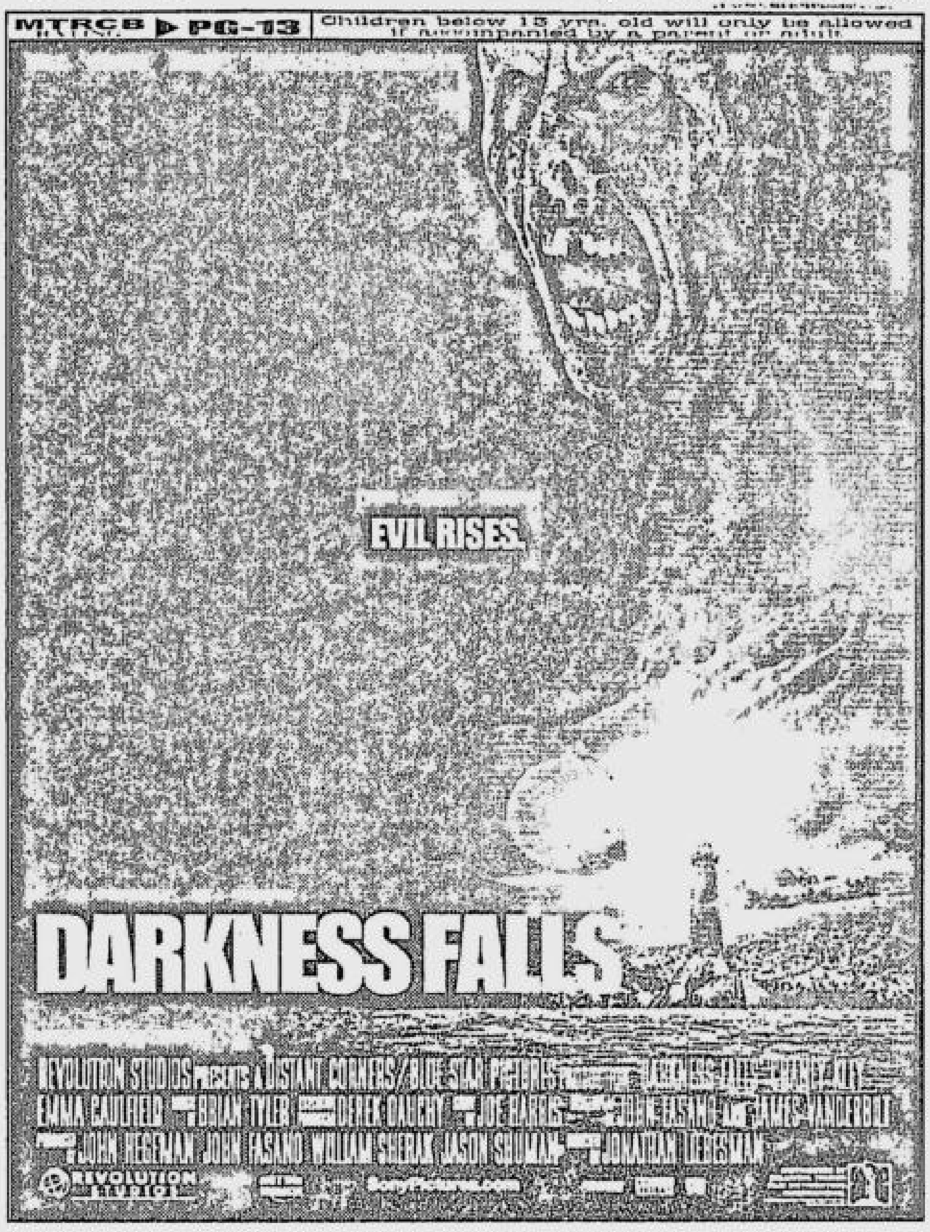

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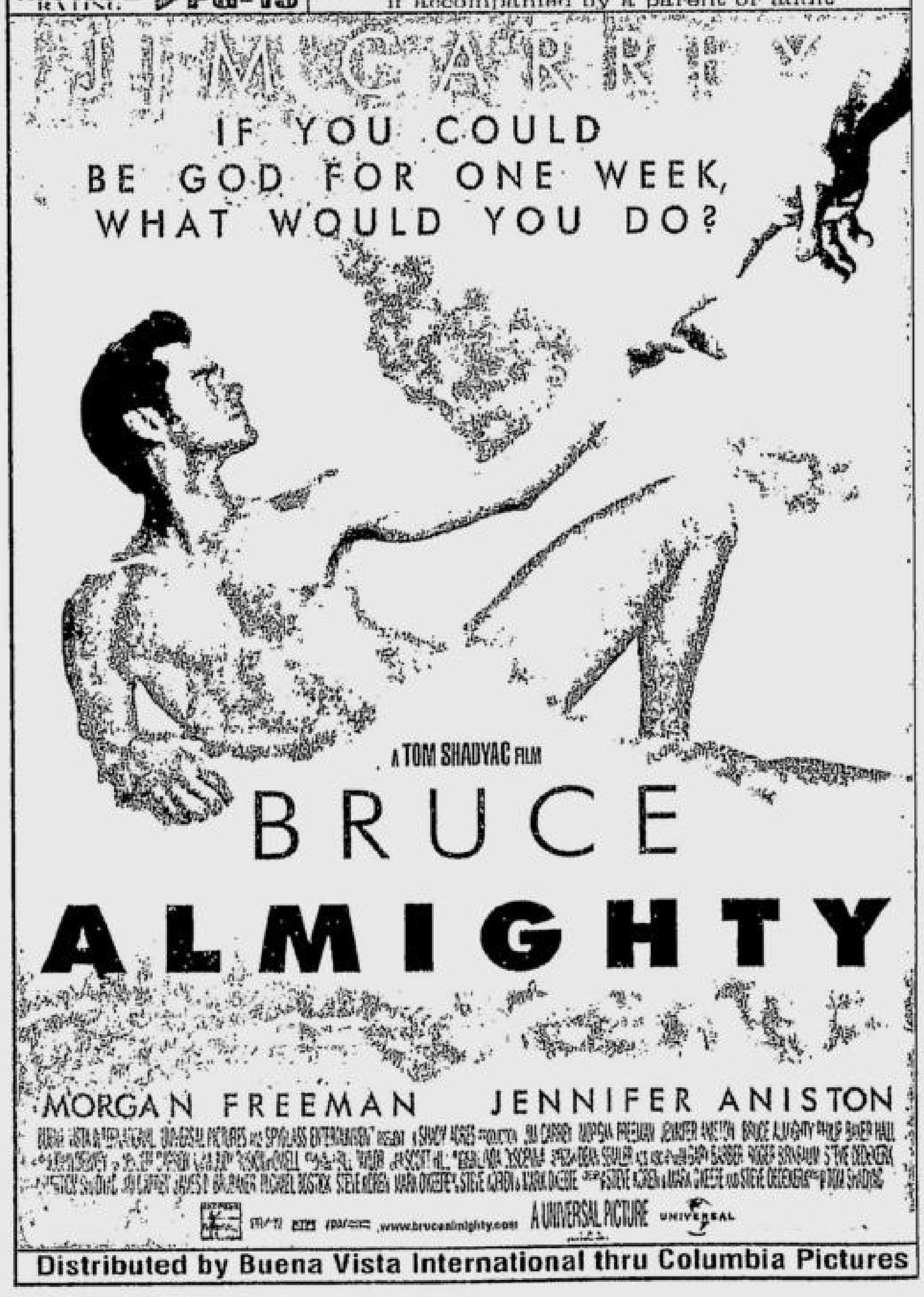

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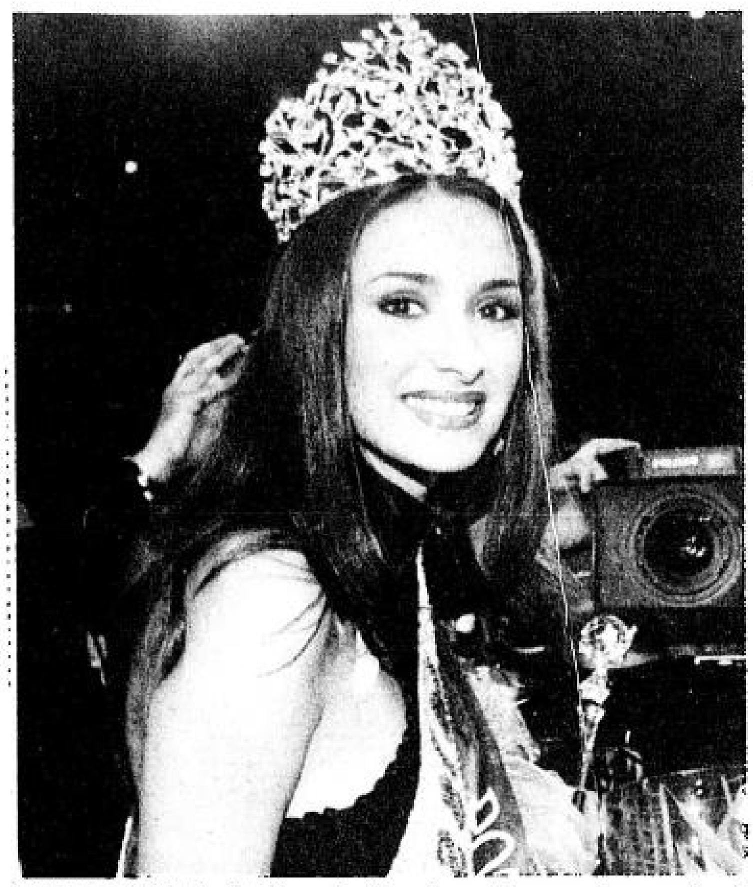
High hopes for new Miss Earth


UNCROWNED Dzejla Glavovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina promised to show up at Miss Earth events but did not, according to organizers.
JOEY GALVEZ

"WE HAVE no doubt she will bring pride and honor to the Miss Earth cause. She is a very bright girl and speaks fluent English. We are certainly proud to have her as the spokesperson for the environmental concerns and programs our organization supports."

Lorraine Schuck was referring to Winfred Omwakwe of Kenya, the new Miss Earth following the dethroning of the original 2002 Miss Earth title holder, Dzejla Glavovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Omwakwe, 21, who was chosen Miss Air in the pageant finals held in Manila last year, will serve the remaining six months of the title holder's reign.

Schuck, executive vice president of Carousel Productions which organizes the pageant, earlier announced that Glavovic was uncrowned as Miss Earth for failing to actively promote the pageant's environmental projects.

She said Glavovic would always promise to attend events and activities organized by Carousel but would not show up.

"We're very sad about what happened to Miss Glavovic," said Schuck, a former Mutya ng Pilipinas herself. "But we wish her success in her future endeavors. We were on good terms when she left the country."

The 5-foot-9 Omwakwe is a physiotherapy student of the Institute of Health Care and Management in Kenya. She is active in promoting eco-tourism causes in her home country, said Schuck.

"Miss Kenya was well applauded (during the pageant) for her charm, confidence, intelligence and wit, and she gave what most people thought was the best answer to the final question of the competition."

Indeed, Omwakwe was a favorite during the Miss Earth 2002 coronation night.

She is now in Canada to fulfill some personal and professional commitments. She is expected to return to Manila in July to to be officially crowned Miss Earth.

Shuck said that this early, Carousel Productions has lined up symposia and fund-raising shows that will take Omwakwe to different parts of the country.

The Miss Earth contest is only on its third year. *Marinel R. Cruz*

CROWD FAVORITE. Winfred Omwakwe of Kenya was originally crowned first runner-up in the Miss Earth pageant last year.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	PAKNERS
Ali 2	TANGING INA
Ali 3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
Ali 4	MATRIX RELOADED
Ali 5	AGENT CODY BANKS
Ali 6	FRIDA
Ali 7	KAPITBAHAY

ARANETA COLISEUM	
JUNE 2	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
JUNE 8	PBA GAMES
JUNE 14	MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT
JUNE 16,18,20	WORLD SLASHER CUP DERBY
JUNE 28	NCAA OPEN CEREMONIES

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THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY 'LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	PAKNERS
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	HIRAM
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ANG TANGING INA
B	PAKNERS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-2	ANG KAPIT BAHAY
CINEMA-3	PAKNERS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FRIDA
CINEMA-6	DAYO
CINEMA-7	RING 0
CINEMA-8	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AGENT CODY BANKS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-12	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-14	PAKNERS
CINEMA-15	ANG TANGING INA
LORES	
CINEMA 2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA 2	ANGER MANAGEMENT
CINEMA 3	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA 4	PAKNERS
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
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BRUCE ALMIGHTY PG13 12:40,2:50,5:00, 7:10,9:20	FRIDA R18 11:30,2:00,4:30, 7:00,9:30	BRUCE ALMIGHTY PG13 11:30,1:40,3:50, 6:00,8:10,10:20

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P13

CINEMA 2
AGENT CODY BANKS
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P-13

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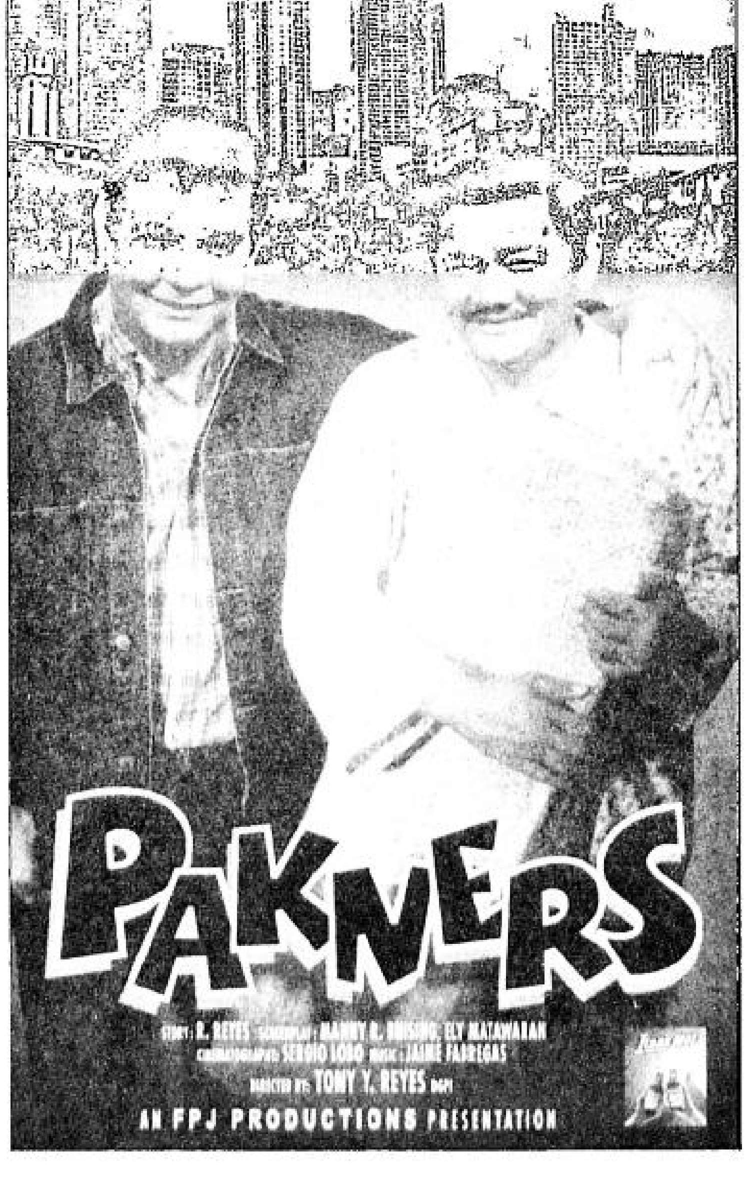
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AN FPJ PRODUCTIONS PRESENTATION

Ayen dazzles starry, starry lounge crowd

SHOW TIME

IT WAS her first time to perform at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental, but it looks like it won't be the last for Ayen Munji-Laurel, who dazzled the audience with her recent show "Ayen at the Captain's Bar."

The concert, presented by ML Entertainment with the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, featured songs that highlighted the pleasant quality of Ayen's voice, from fast songs to quiet ballads and poignant love songs.

She sang duets with her special guests–Agot Isidro in "Come Together" and Janno Gibbs in "Ating Bituin"–plus a touching number, "What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life," with her dad Emy Munji on the keyboards.

Compared to her previous live performances, Ayen was more at ease and relaxed in her spiels, even cracking a joke or two.

Seen watching the Captain's Bar show that night were Isay Alvarez, Gigi Posadas, Pinky Marquez, Reuben Laurente of The Company, Bert Nievera and wife Carol, Mon David, Olive Isidro, Samantha Chavez, Raul Francisco and Joanna Preysler, Fanny Serrano, Bing Loyzaga, Sheila Francisco, Lynn Sherman, Danny Tan, Ronnie Salvacion, sisters Lani and Rachel Lobangco with their mom Elvie Pineda, Pops Fernandez and Brad Turvey.

AYEN had the time of her life performing at Captain's Bar.

Marlon Rivera was the stage director; Marc Lopez, musical director; Willy Munji, sound designer; Gerry Fernandez, lights designer; and Andy Alviz, choreographer.

Ayen wore gowns by Jojie Lloren. Her backup dancers were dressed by Maxie Cinco.

FRIENDS AND GUESTS (from left) Bing Loyzaga, Janno Gibbs, Pops Fernandez, Fanny Serrano, Brad Turvey and Pinky Marquez.

'Battle of the Showgirls' at Billboard

BILLBOARD Club in Makati City combines Broadway and Las Vegas in the competition called "Battle of the Showgirls."

The contest takes place every Monday of June and July. It kicks off on Monday, June 2 when women from the different bars along P. Burgos perform.

A panel of judges from the worlds of fashion, entertainment and high society will pick the weekly winners.

Billboard Club is on P. Burgos corner Durban, Makati.

Two more lead roles open in 'Full Monty'

THE LOCAL version of the Broadway hit "The Full Monty" is two lead roles shy of completing its cast led by multi-awarded actor Ricky Davao.

The musicale, produced by Centerstage Musicale Theater, is in need of actors for the lead roles of Jery Lukowski and the African American Noah "Horse" T. Simmons.

The Jerry character requires a fair-skinned actor in his early 30's. It is actually his idea to put on the strip act to earn money in order to win his son in a custody battle with his estranged wife.

The Afro-American role requires an actor to be black, in his 40's and a good dancer and singer.

The black character is just as important in the musicale as it involves a gutsy, first-time performer who shows up at auditions and impresses everyone with his terpsichorean and singing skills.

"The Full Monty" tells the poignant story of six unemployed steelmen who, in a desperate move to earn money, decide to put on a "Full Monty" show (the British term for frontal nudity). This was after Jerry, the lead character, stumbles upon the idea after watching a hit Chippendale act. Strongly driven to earn money, Jerry forms a group of old and physically imperfect strippers.

Produced as a movie in 1997 with Robert Carlyle, Mark Addy and Tom Wilkinson, "The Full Monty" snagged an Oscar nomination for best picture.

Actors interested in auditioning for the two lead roles may call Centerstage at 634-6487 to 89. The musical opens at Meralco Theater in October.

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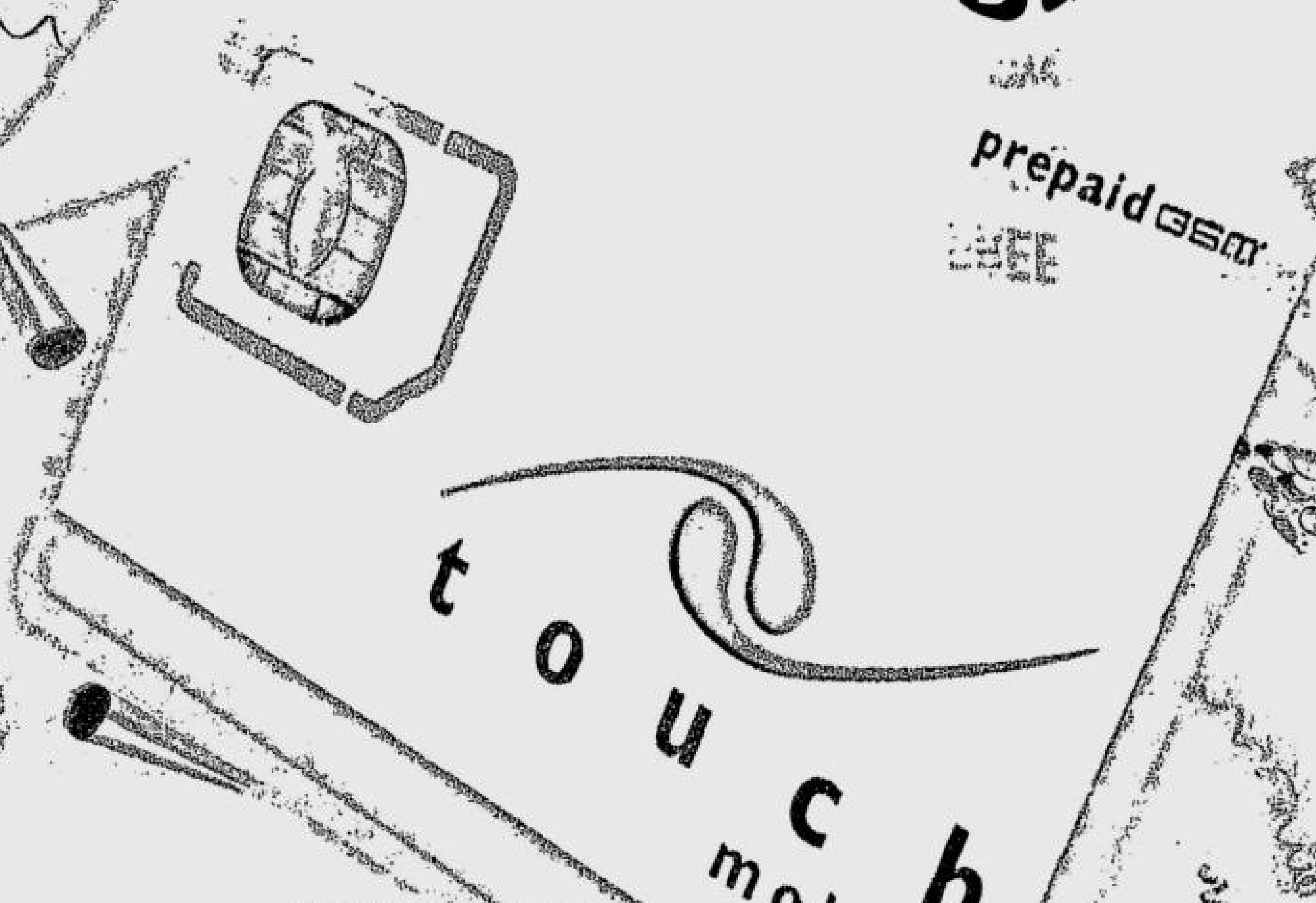

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JOSÉ JOYA

The man who would be National Artist

Bypassed for the honor many times, the chief proponent of abstract expressionism gets his due posthumously

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

JOSÉ Joya

HIS NAME, though highly revered in art circles, had been bypassed countless times before, but, this umpteenth time, the man will finally, if belatedly, reap his just reward.

We are talking of José Tandig Joya (1931-1995), who has emerged as the next National Artist for the visual arts.

Though there are only a few days to the official conferment of the awards by President Macapagal (the conferment is usually timed for National Independence Day), Joya's name had been endorsed months ago by the Council of Peers, a body formed by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts to oversee the rigorous selection process.

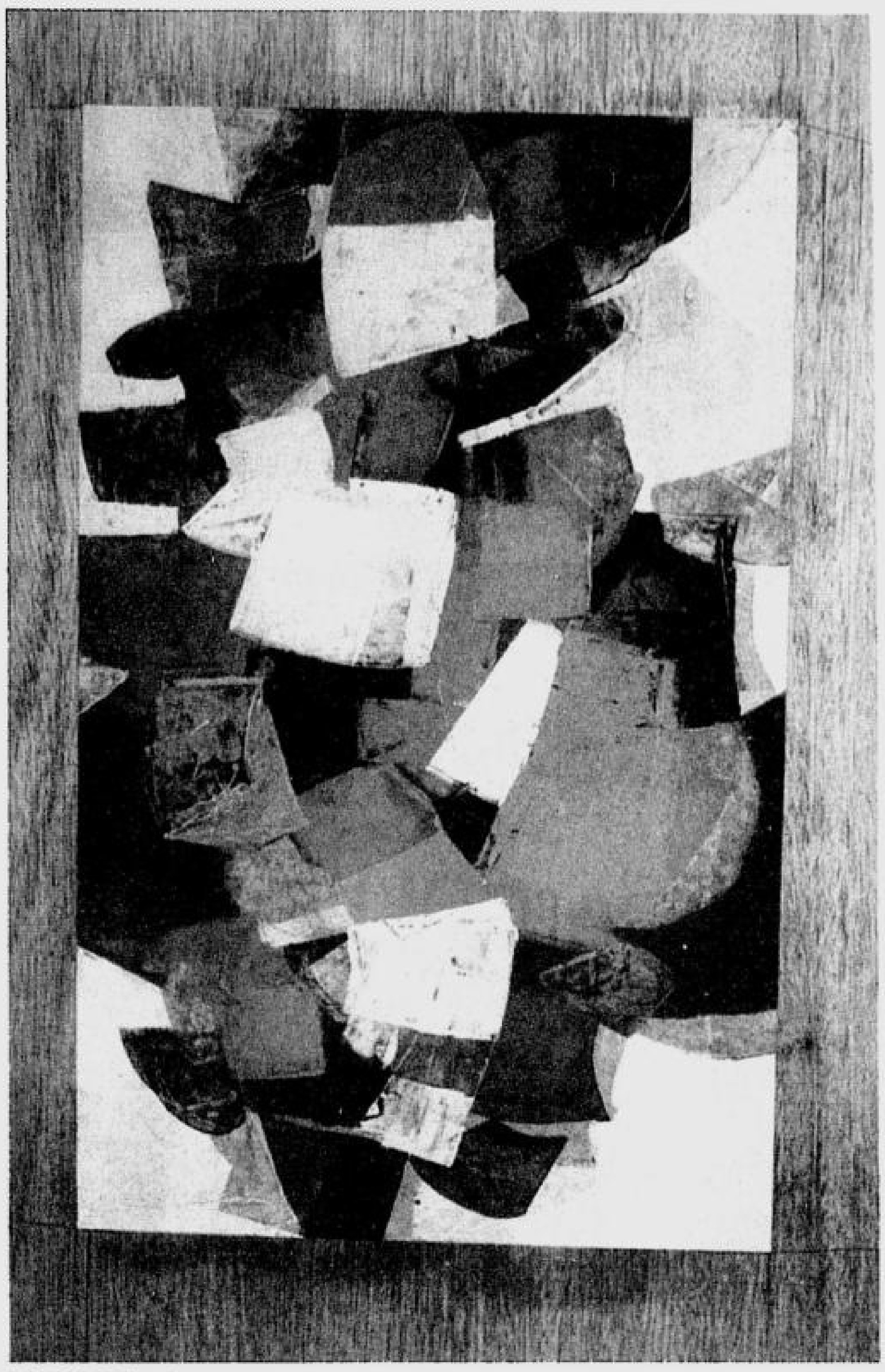
During the process, Larry Alcala, Francisco V. Coching and Mauro Malang Santos also vied for the top accolade.

Joya's omission from the awards in the past years owes to oversight. He had been nominated many times in the past, even when he was still alive and painting, but he just could not muster enough support. He was even at the tail-end of the 2001 shortlist, later won by Ang Kiukok.

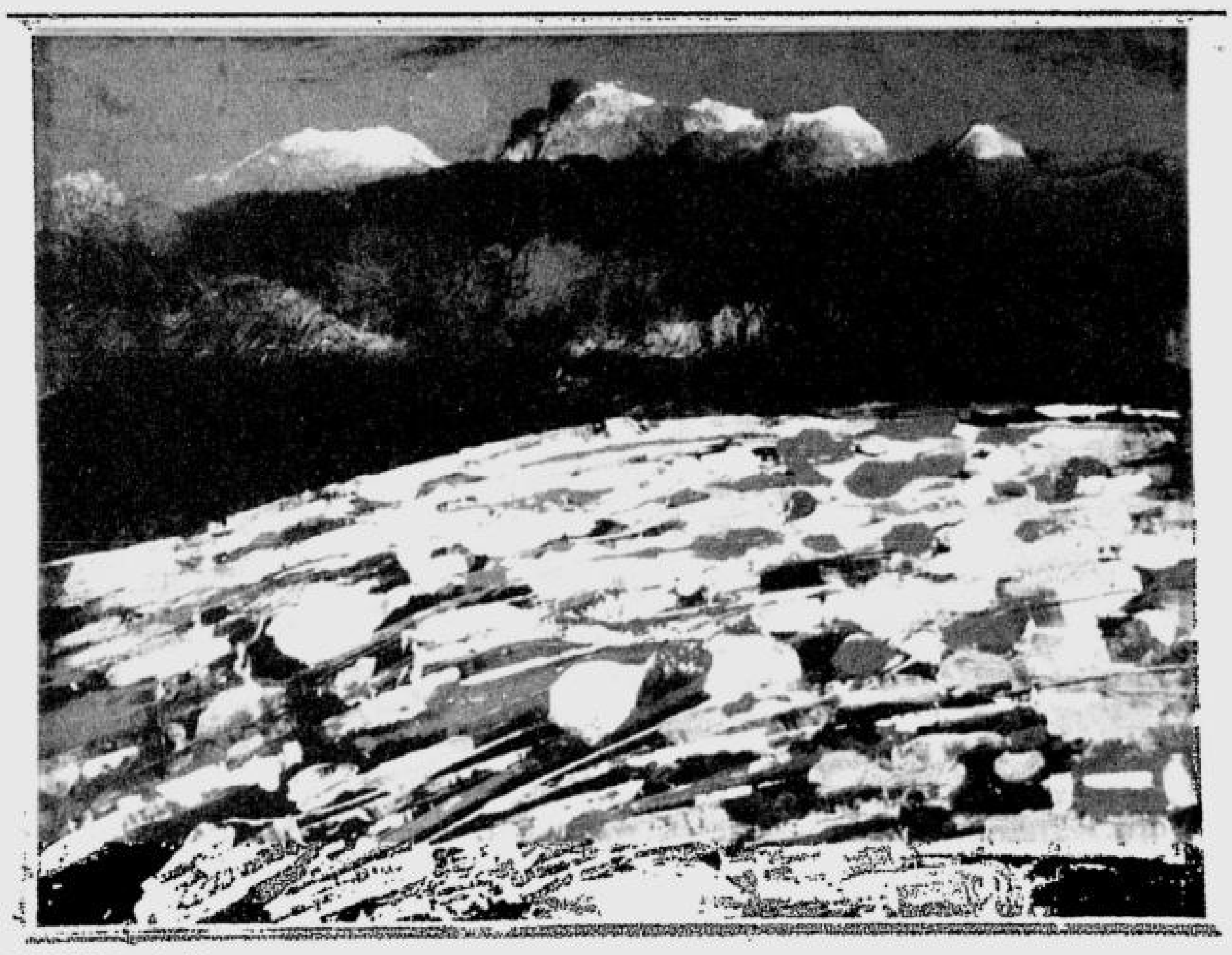
Eight years after his sudden demise due to complications arising from prostate cancer in 1995, the acknowledged pillar of modern Philippine art will posthumously be accorded state recognition for his contributions to the visual arts.

His lifelong task of vigorously and steadfastly pursuing modern abstract art, in the process transforming it into his highly personal iconography, undoubtedly deserves the highest accolade.

The artist did not stop at exploring the language of Abstract Expressionism to the hilt. He assimilated influences and transformed them into his own individual style, reflecting what a critic calls "the native hedonism and artistic temper."



"ORANGE Kites"



"GUILIN Sunrise"

A product of the University of the Philippines, Joya graduated with a bachelor's degree in fine arts in 1953, magna cum laude, the first to have earned the distinction from the state university. While a student, he won first prize at the 1952 Art Association of the Philippines competition, with "Approaching Storm," an early work which prefigured his brand of unrelenting energy and dynamism.

Western exposure

A travel grant from the Spanish government's Instituto de Cultura Hispanica gave him firsthand exposure to Western art.

A year later, he was awarded a Fulbright-Smith Mundt scholarship to the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan to finish his master's degree. It was in the course of his studies that he traveled to New York, where he saw the then emerging school of Abstract Expressionism espoused by Jackson Pollock and the New York School.

As Joya recalled later, it was a voyage that reaffirmed his belief in the vast potentials of abstract art. He later took decisive steps that would seal his choice.

Back in the country, in 1958, Joya began to paint on large canvases that reveled in the disappearance of the figure, replaced with gestural touches of brushwork. These were works bearing the Cubist influence, described by a critic as being characterized by a "style of impastoed shapes, interlocking jewel-like facets that glowed from within and at the same time reflecting the all-pervasive light."

In 1964, Joya was well on his way to broadening his horizon, having been chosen to represent the country, together with sculptor Napoleon Abueva, in the 32nd Venice Biennale. Here, he showed nine pieces, which explored the birth of an expressive style identified as Abstract Expressionism, of which Joya would become a most ardent proponent.

Joya would return to New York, in 1967, as a scholar of the John D. Rockefeller III Fund and Ford Foundation. The trip gave him the opportunity to study and work for two years.

On his way home, he toured Europe, visiting art centers in the various cities of the continent. Once again, it was another chance for the

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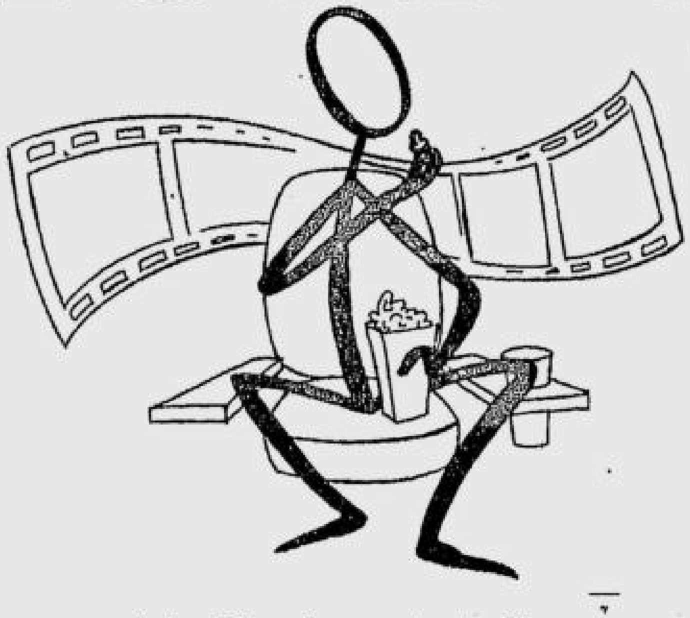

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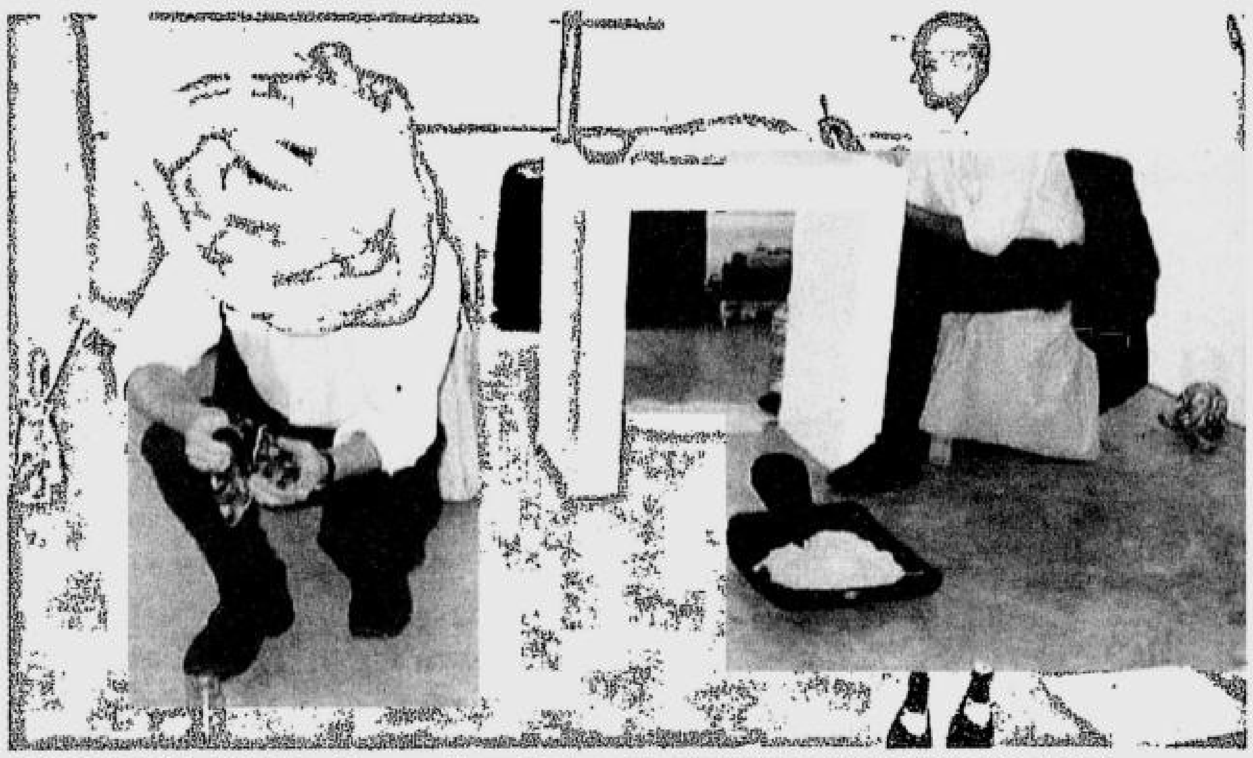
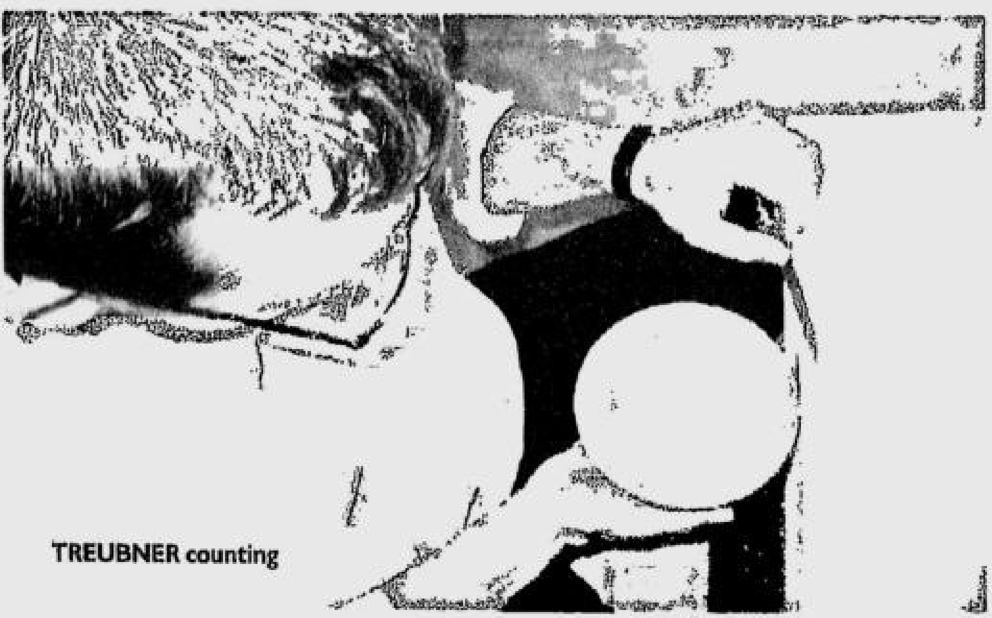


PERFORMANCE artists Helge Meyer and Marco Treubner show how mind-blowing counting rice grains is.



TREUBNER counting

Counting rice

THINK Germans, and what pops up in your brain is precision and order. Think Filipinos—or Asians, for that matter—and you think rice. The two elements joined hands recently in a full-moon performance art at mag:net+, the art gallery on the ground level of ABS-CBN's The Loop.

Two German artists, Helge Meyer and Marco Treubner, collectively known as System HM2T, set about counting rice grains for 21 hours—roughly the same amount of time it took them to travel from a small village in the North of Germany to Metro Manila.

They called their longest performance ever "The Long Journey of Rice."

Countdown

The artists began by setting a table with two chairs opposite each other. On the gallery floor, they changed clothes and laid down an assortment of objects from their baggage: photographs and slides of their loved ones, favorite CDs and cassette tapes, books and maps of their villages, toys and story books of their daughters, cut lawn grass in a glass bottle, coins, dices, a perfumed handkerchief, two bottles of German beer, painted stones and an area rug.

The countdown officially started when the two punctured a 10-kg sack of rice grains with steak knives. They then poured the grains on the table. Treubner wrote on the gallery wall the time and events that transpired during their journey to the Philippines.

In between their mathematical, methodical and structured counting, the artists would sometimes pause and tell the stories behind the objects they brought—tales about their village, families, someone's asthmatic wife, their cute little daughters, Meyer's dying grandmother, favorite rock bands, etc.

Their stories showed the artists' strong belief in their art, their undying love for their families and also their most recent fears and frustrations in the society they live in.

Staying awake

The audience was occasionally invited by the artists to look, touch, read and smell the objects. Listening to the stories behind these objects while holding them was like taking a journey deep into Germany—as well as into the artists' homes and their emotional and mental states as well.

At one point, Meyer paced back and forth each time he would step on an area rug. After doing it for about two minutes he stood on the rug, faced the audience and explained in a soft-spoken voice: "This piece of rug is placed by the doorstep of my home in Germany, and every day, my wife, my daughter and myself would step on it. Therefore, now, the dirt of Germany and the dirt of the Philippines are mixed."

Treubner, on the other hand, would open a bottle full of dried farm grass and tell the audience that he lives in a farm where they had about 40 cows—and how the smell of grass was always different each year.

Watching the two perform for 21 hours was in itself a journey.

At some point during the performance the audience would fall asleep.

Some would go home and come back. A few stayed on and made the effort to remain awake.

59,601 grains

Sometime after breakfast, the artists started laughing at each other. Later, they said they were actually crying—it was the moment, for the first time, that it dawned on them how difficult it was to count rice.

There were instances when they would mix up their numbers. But to maintain the precision and integrity of their counting, they would return the grains back to the uncounted mound.

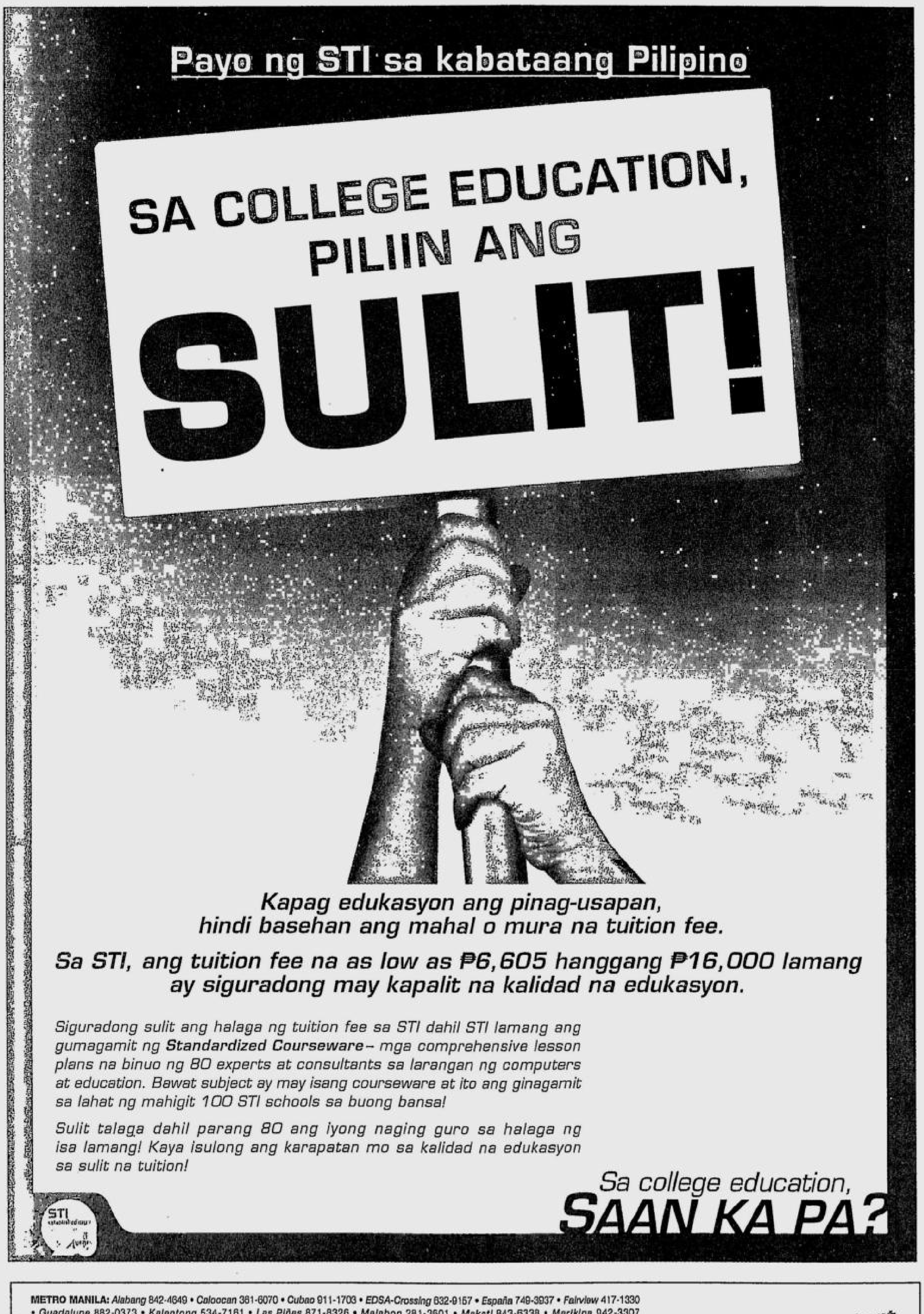
At exactly 4:58 p.m. of the next day, all the counted grains were placed in a rice cooker. They didn't finish the whole 10-kg pack but they did come up with a number: 59,601 grains.

Meyer and Treubner washed and cooked the rice they were counting for 21 hours and shared it with the audience.

For the artists, "The Long Journey of Rice" was a journey back to their collective and personal cultural set up in Germany. This time, they confronted it from a distance, bringing along with them the audience that full moon night.

Pedro Dumancas and Moro Ocampo

"The Long Journey of Rice" was part of the 3rd Philippine International Performance Art Festival. Mag:net+ regularly hosts art-centered activities during full moons. In June, the Pinikpikan Group is the featured performer in "Full Moon Nights at the Loop."



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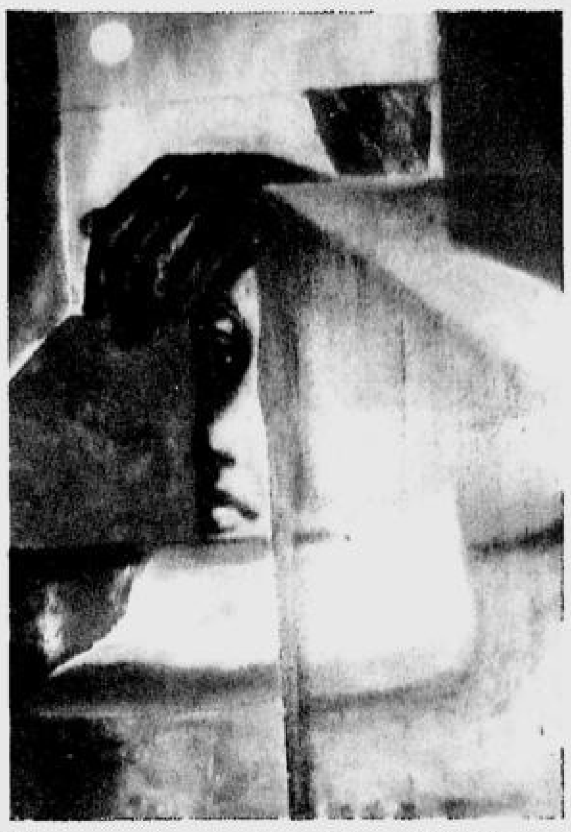


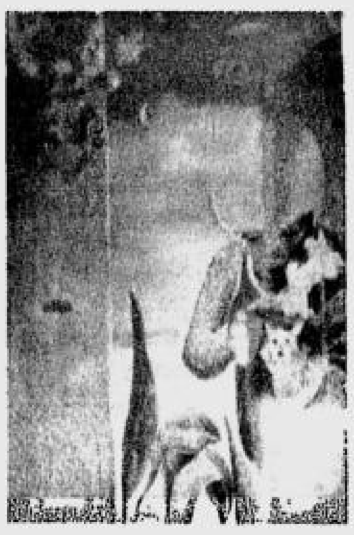
"NAGKUKUBLI" (Hiding in Shame)

THE FIRST one-man exhibit of 29-year-old Frederick M. Masangkay runs until June 15 at Ayala Museum, 3/L, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

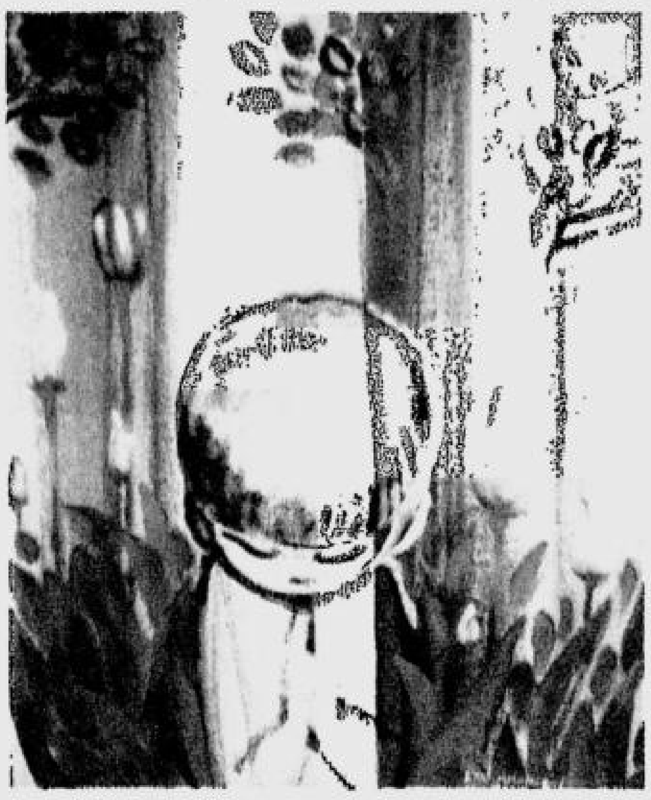
The oil paintings on canvas were inspired by the award-winning artist's two-year exposure to the women and children of Nazareth Growth Home.

The exhibit is dedicated to the memory of Michael Christopher Maquipotin, an eight-year-old boy who died recently in France, near Lourdes, on his way back from the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children, where he was a child delegate of the Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women.

Masangkay was teaching the boy how to paint. Proceeds of art sales will go to the Michael Christopher Endowment Fund to help exploited and abused children under TW-MAE-W care.



THE ART exhibit is dedicated to the memory of eight-year-old Michael Christopher Maquipotin



"ANGEL Boy" (Munting Anghel sa Lupa)

The man who would be National Artist

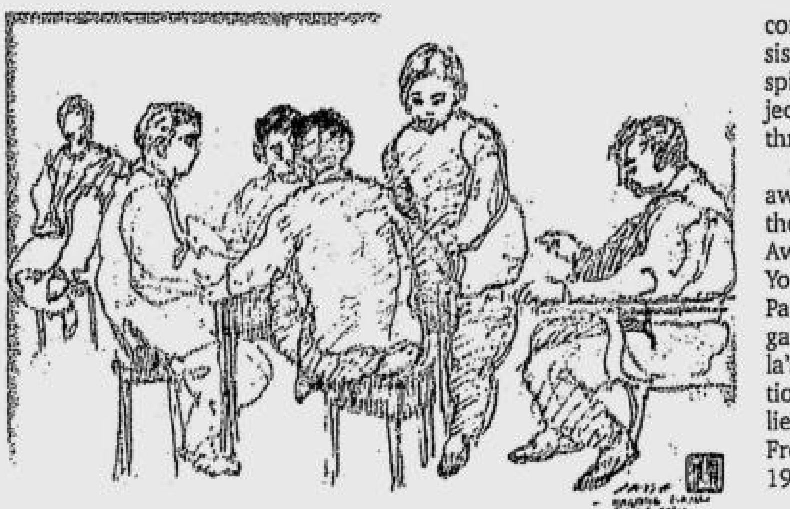
From page D1

artist to widen his horizon, while imbibing a wealth of influences.

"There is really nothing original in this world," Joya said in an interview with this writer in 1990, "in terms of creating a piece of work from nothing to something. It's merely the result of progress, characterized by borrowing from existing forms, developing, refining and incorporating the best qualities, until such time that something becomes one's creation."

It was in the '70s when Joya, exhibiting several times in Luz Gallery, would begin exploring in earnest the possibilities of collage using rice paper with acrylic. The resulting works revealed multilayered, overlapping space, interpenetrated by vibrant tropical hues, with occasional use of monochromatic and neutral colors.

Joya's work in this medium that he enriched would continue to the latter part of the '70s, when he would experiment on ceramic designs, figure sketches and oil paintings, which, together with those in acrylic, would remain his major works.



"MAHJONG Players"

Academe

Forming an integral aspect of his artistic career was his involvement in academic life. He served as dean and faculty member of the College of Fine Arts at the UP in Diliman.

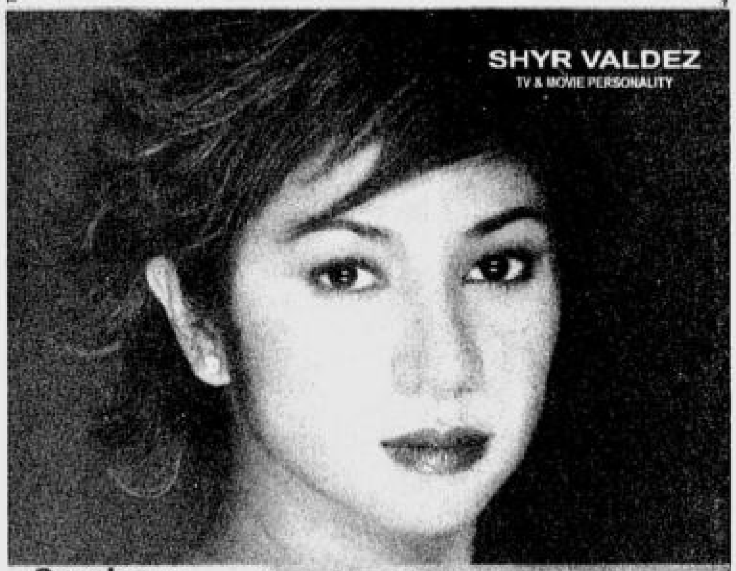
He not only promoted greater art consciousness among the young and the masses in general, through his scholarship grants he also shared his gifts with various art organizations, particularly through outreach programs that took him to every nook and cranny of the country.

"In creating an artwork," Joya once said in an interview, "the artist is concretizing his need for communication. He has an irresistible urge to reach that level of spiritual satisfaction and to project what he is and what he thinks through his work."

Joya has received countless awards in his lifetime, notably the Republic Cultural Heritage Award and the Ten Outstanding Young Men in 1961; the 1971 Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan Award coinciding with Manila's Fourth Centenary celebrations; the 1987 Order of Chevalier des Arts et Lettres from the French Government; and the 1991 Gawad CCP para sa Sining.

Conferring the National Artist award on José Joya will posthumously honor the man who remains a towering figure in modern art, whose pioneering efforts in abstract art have paved the way for succeeding generations of artists to emerge, and whose body of works fully articulates the power, dynamism and vitality of modern art to audiences everywhere.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo @yahoo.com



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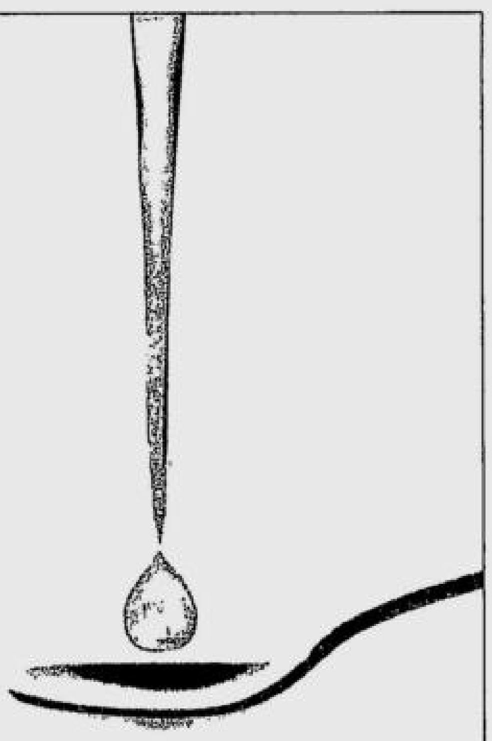

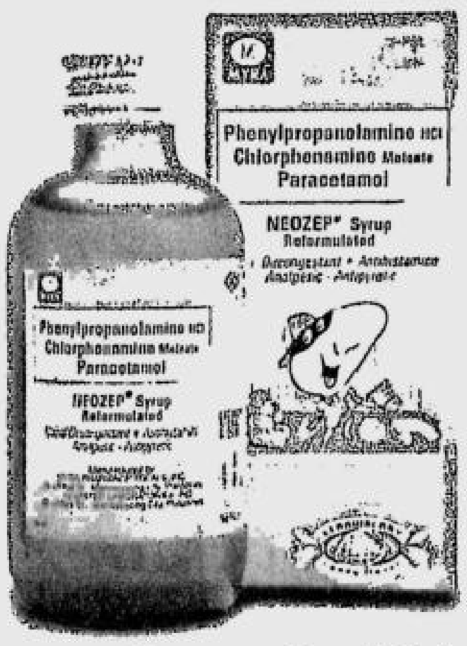

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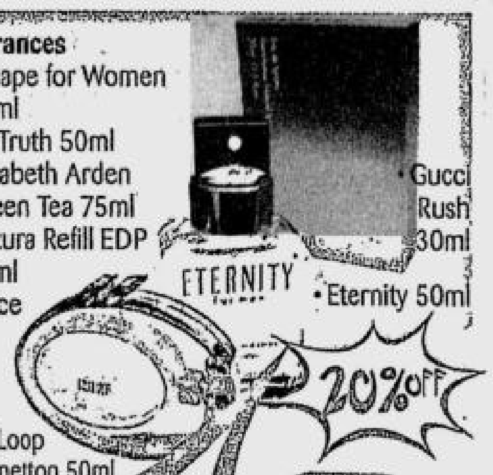

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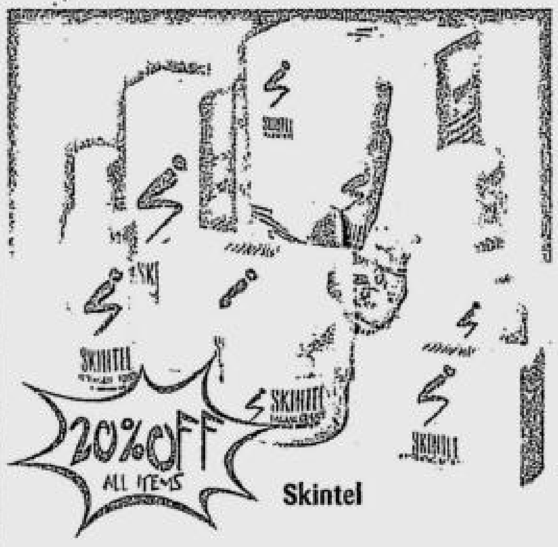

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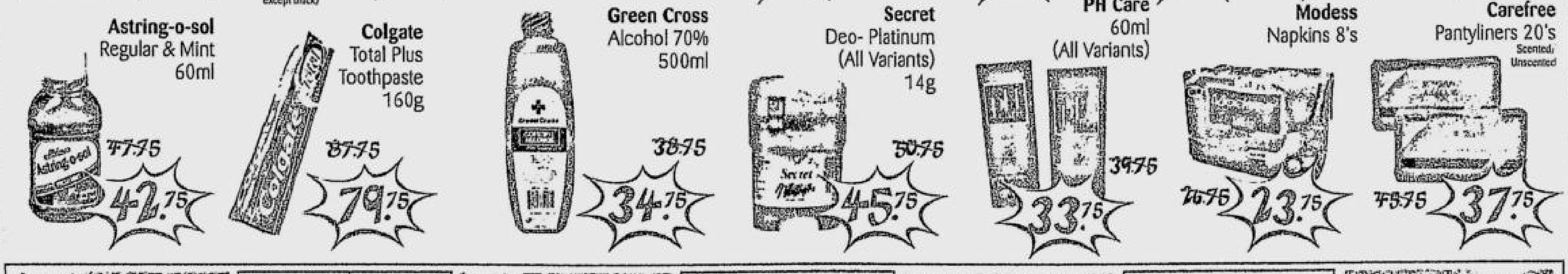

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Batanes goes the way of endangerment

Believe it or not, Batanes is showing symptoms of environmental, cultural and heritage degradation

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

THINGS have always had to be done differently in Batanes. Its isolation, its desolate environment, and low population are factors that have made the Ivatan develop a tradition of self-sufficiency that has allowed him to survive what is probably the most severe environment in the Philippines.

Environment has shaped all aspects of the Ivatan lifestyle, and it shows all over Batanes. To begin with, the seascape looks inward rather than to the open sea. It always looks to another of the 10 Batanes islands (only three are inhabited) of the archipelago.

The Ivatan landscape is one of a kind. It is unforgettable. At the foot of each of the majestic volcanoes at the core of the major islands, grass-covered hills roll before dropping dramatically into the rocky sea. On the bottom slopes of the volcanoes, the Ivatan plants his crops in small fields surrounded by hedgerows which are rows of low, sturdy plants in lines following plot boundaries that provide a wind shield for growing crops.

Even the Ivatan house is designed in response to the environment. The small, low house hugs the ground. Thick stone walls traditionally held together by lime mortar withstand the strongest wind. A thick mane of cogon thatches massive roofs.

Ivatans traditionally band together in cooperatives when houses need to be built or repaired. Members of the cooperative pledge labor and a share of the construction materials. They schedule repairs among the cooperative members' homes, starting with the structures in urgent need for repair. In the barrio of Itbud on Batan Island we saw the cooperative (kamañidugan in Ivatan) changing the cogon roofing of a house. Everyone in the cooperative performed his assigned task and in one day the new roof was up. Three more roofs in Itbud were scheduled for replacement by the cooperative for the year 2003. The activity showed that the Ivatan has always taken care of his fellow Ivatan.

Today things are going very differently in Batanes, maybe too differently. Local traditions, the anchor that sustains the balance between the Ivatan and his environment, are either being stretched to the limit or just dying out. Modernization is taking its toll on Batanes.

Modernization disregards the harmony that the Ivatan has always maintained with nature. Garbage has become a serious problem. Although some municipalities have successfully implemented garbage segregation programs, in the majority of areas garbage is still dumped on open pits. Imagine the damage that an open dumpsite can do to the environment.

Not a game

I don't have to say anything any more. However, what I can say is that garbage is not an open game in Batanes as far as environment goes. The province has legally taken protective steps to ensure the quality of its environment.

Tacked onto the fence of Basco airport is a rusting tin sign that proclaims the Batanes Protected Landscape and Seascape Law as being a special project of President Macapagal.

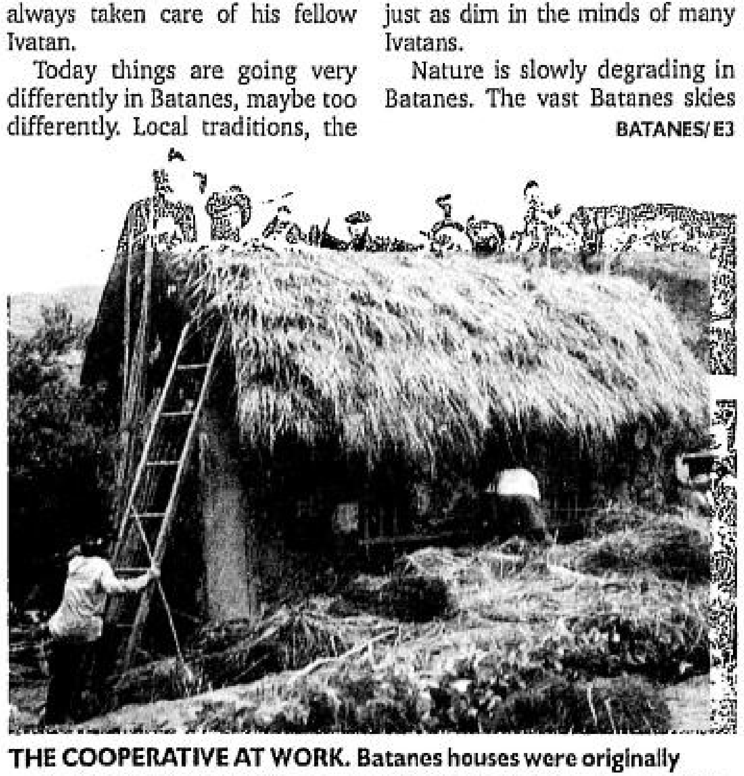
The law protects the entire Batanes archipelago, declares it as a nature and marine reserve, and specifies rigid levels of protection to be followed by the province.

Batanes is one of 10 sites in the Philippines protected by the National Integrated Protected Area Site (NIPAS) Declaration. The law singles out the entire province as a special environment, prescribing enlightened governance to maintain that specialness.

As required by all NIPAS-protected areas, strict management plans are prepared and carefully followed to ensure concerted action in protecting the site. It works beautifully on paper but the idea that Batanes must be protected remains dim in the minds of most national, provincial and local government authorities. The concept is just as dim in the minds of many Ivatans.

Nature is slowly degrading in Batanes. The vast Batanes skies

BATANES/E3



THE COOPERATIVE AT WORK. Batanes houses were originally walled and roofed totally in cogon until the Spanish Dominican friars introduced stone as building material that could withstand earthquake.

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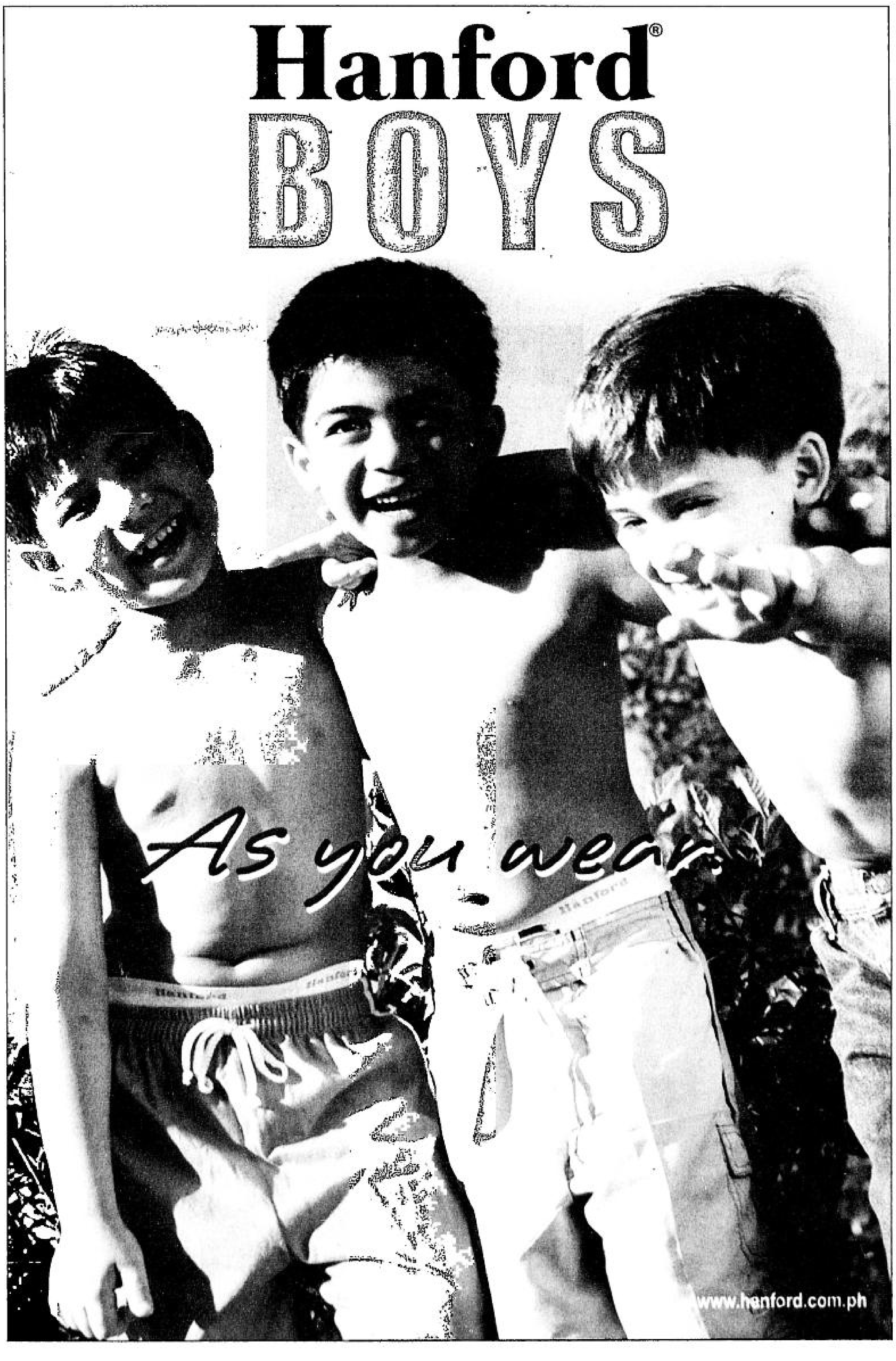
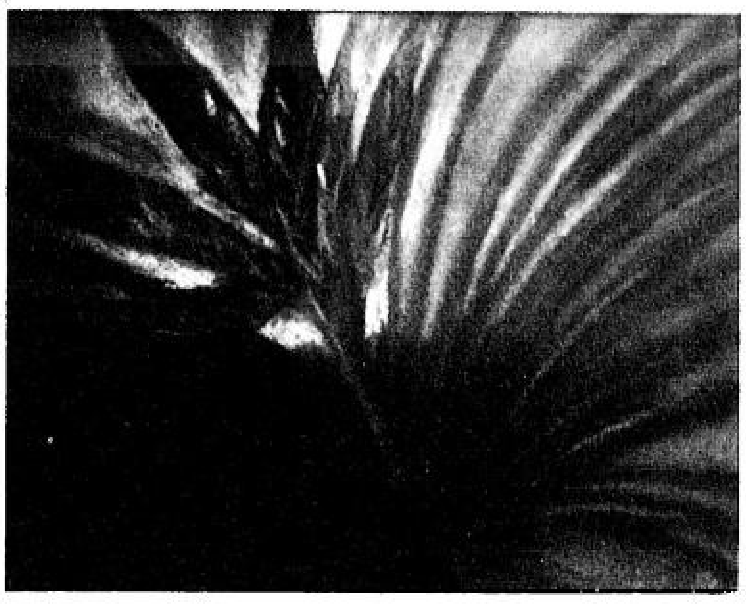
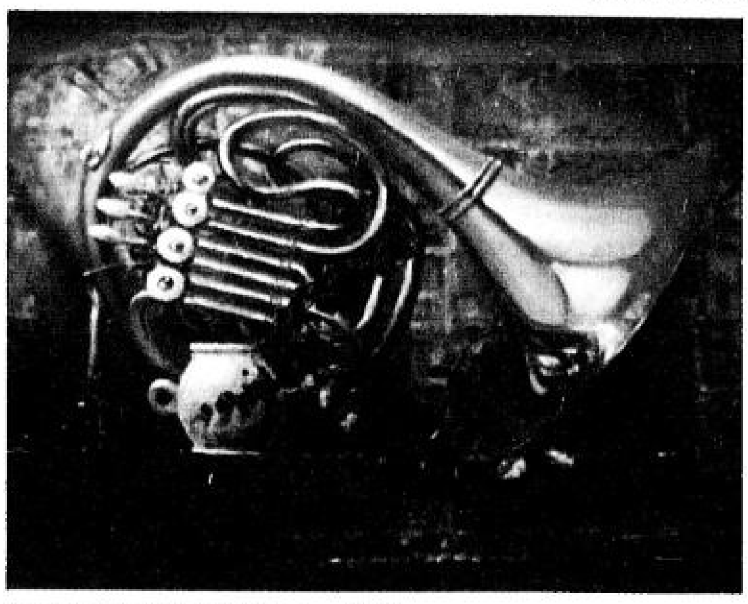
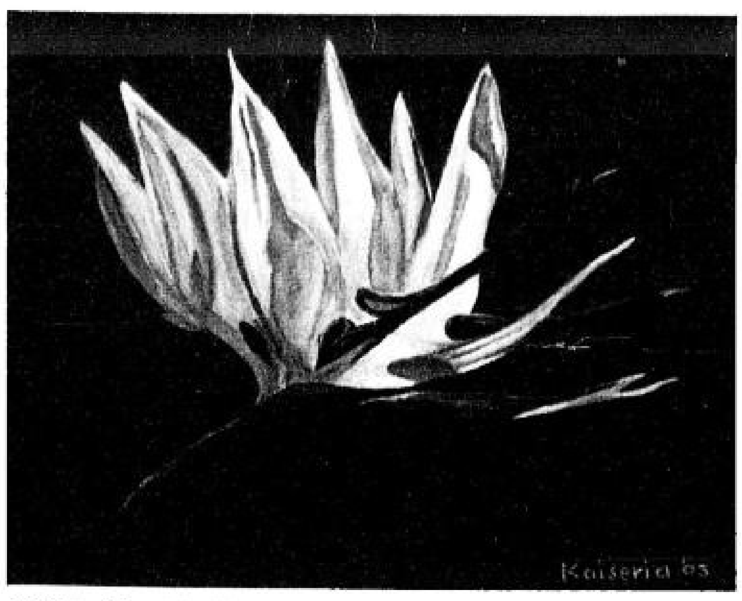




"BROMELIAD" III, by Honey Banal-Huertas



"WAITING for Chuck," by Rene Belison



"BIRD-of-Paradise," by Kaiseria

New rising artists toast wisdom of the old

Text by Constantino C. Tejero
Photos by Romy Homillada

TYPHOON Chedeng was brewing, traffic jams and floods were churning Metro Manila into a shambles, yet the opening of the art exhibit "Tribute to Mommy Tanching" wasn't rained out at all.

The exhibit's organizers even professed surprise that it was well-attended despite the storm. It could be an act of faith as much as an artistic stand.

Sikat (Sining, Kulay at Tinta), a broad group of upcoming artists based in Antipolo and Marikina, is holding the exhibit to commemorate the death of its 84-year-old member Constancia Diaz-Manalo, Mommy Tanching to many.

The group exhibit, composed of the artworks of Manalo and other Sikat members, is ongoing until June 7 in The Art Gallery on the lobby of the Medical Arts Building of the Philippine Heart Center, East Avenue, Quezon City.

"*Si Mommy dapat magka*-solo this year, but then she died last December," says Sikat president and founder Pol Mesina Jr.

She was a late bloomer. She joined the group at 80, and was only four years into painting when she died.

Daughter Milagros said her mother's only other artistic inclination before this was cross-stitching, and she had attended an art workshop in the University of the Philippines.

Two weeks before the show's opening, son Antonio returned with their mother's ashes from the United States, where she died on Dec. 28.

This then is a posthumous exhibit of her watercolors: "Lotus," "Lotus Pond," "Church," "Swans," "Flower" I-IV.

These colorful naïfs take pride of place at the gallery's entrance. But they're not for sale, as they're priceless mementos of her family.

Wealth of artworks

Guest artists who also show two pieces each are the group's advisers, consultants and mentors: Remy Boquiren, Rafael Pacheco and Fernando Sena.

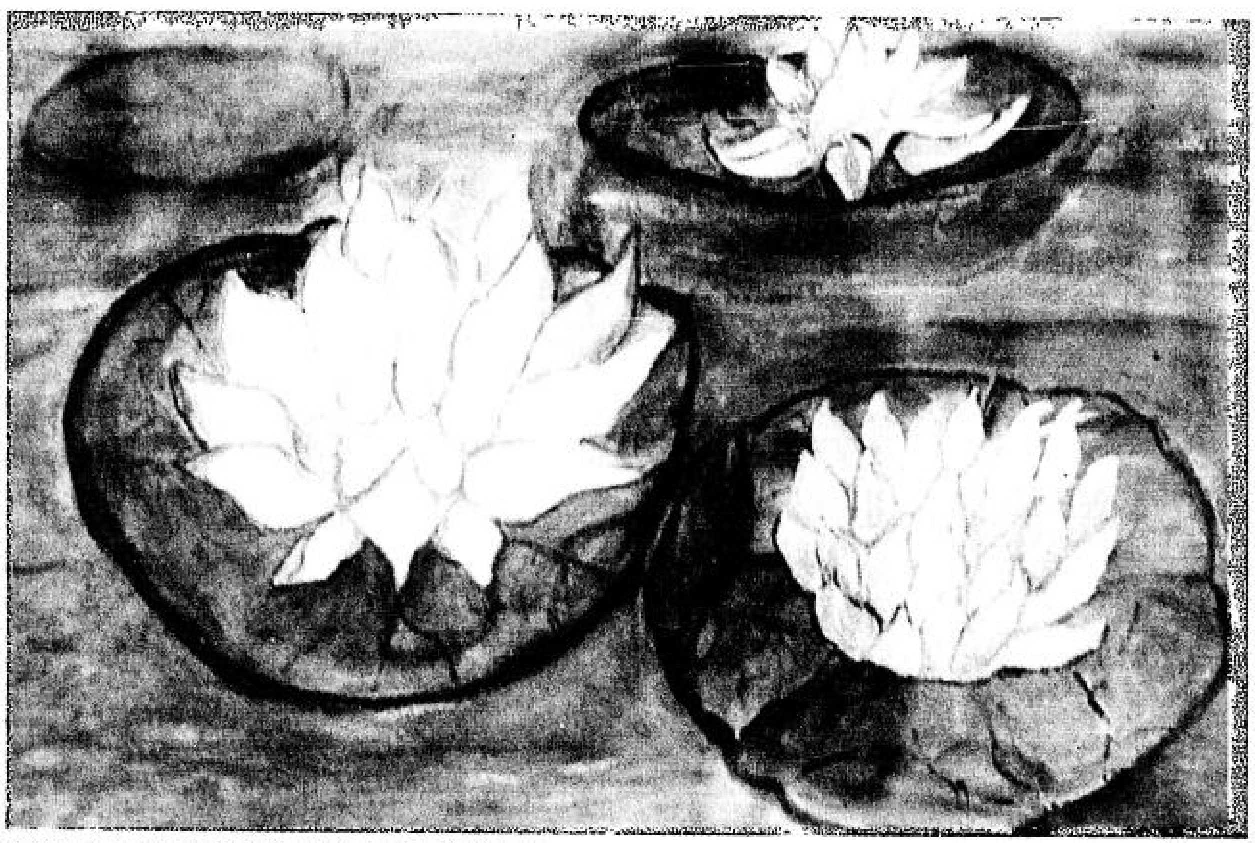
Boquiren offers her signature languid, glowing maidens in "Mahal Kong Alaga," oil on canvas; and a strikingly iridescent floral still life, "Heliconia," oil pastel.

Pacheco has two pieces of his famous finger-painting in oil, "Undersea World" I and II.

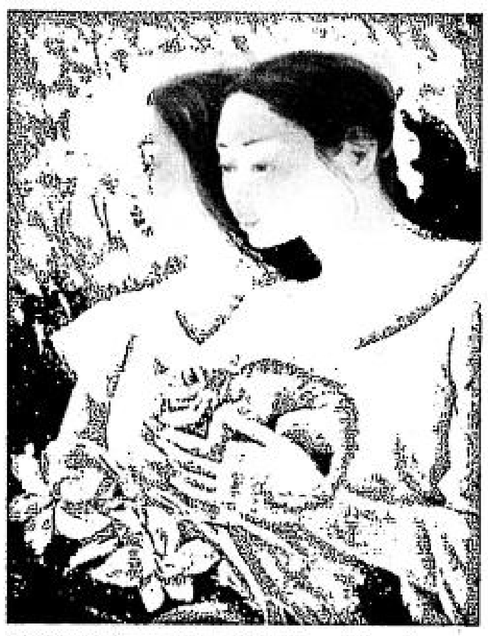
Sena has delectable realist still lifes, "Alimango" and "Fruit of Life," in soft pastel.

And these are not all. There are 75 artworks here, under the looming Manansala mural on the PHC lobby. Sikat artists display a wealth of genre paintings, landscapes, still lifes, flowers, portraits, a few abstracts.

Among the more impressive are: Aed Solis' expressionist "Waiting" and "Mother and Child," in soft pastel; Nene Laporga's formally composed "Ulam ni Ester," pastel; Ige Concepcion's textured monochrome "Zion," acrylic; Rene Belison's poignant still life "Waiting for Chuck," oil; Andy Urag's impressionist "Harvest," oil; Andy Pernia's "Palmera" I, oil pastel; Honey Banal-Huertas' "Bromeliad" III, soft pastel; Kaiseria's "Bird-of-Paradise," oil; Roberto de Aro's "Tulong-Tulong sa Pagsulong," oil; Mesina's "Tawi-Tawi Scenery" I, acrylic.

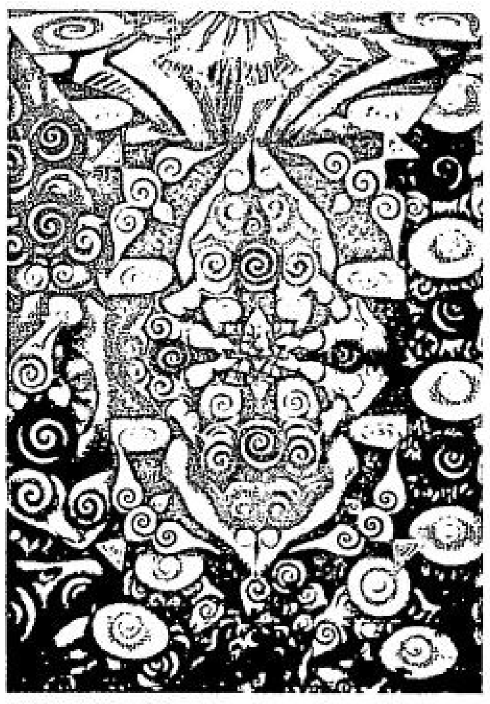


"LOTUS Pond," by Constancia "Tanching" Manalo

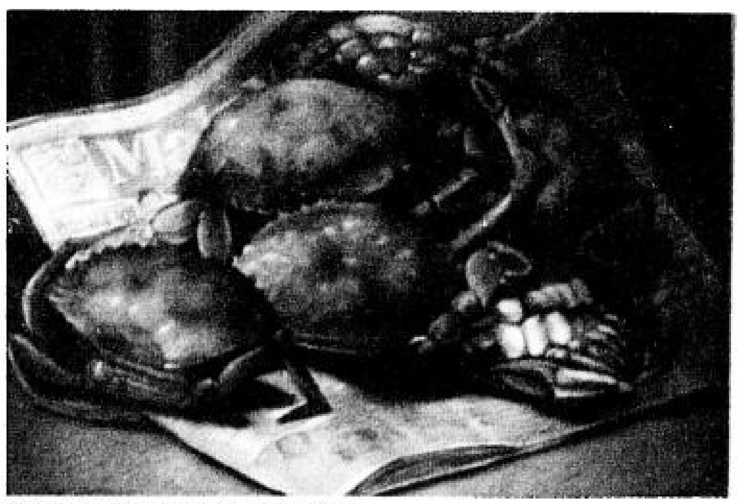


"MAHAL Kong Alaga," by Remy Boquiren

AT THE SHOW'S opening: Antonio Manalo, Fernando Sena, Cecile Manalo, Pol Mesina Jr., Mila Manalo-de la Peña, Remy Boquiren, Horacio Morales, Rogelio Caringal



"TULONG-TULONG sa Pagsulong," by Roberto de Aro



"ALIMANGO," by Fernando Sena

Artistic component

Most of the pieces are conventional, but many display an experimentation with chromatics. All are figurative except for three: Kaiseria's "Corners" and Concepcion's "Zion" and "Intrusion."

Says Boquiren: "These are upcoming artists. This group must have to go even deeper. They must explore."

Concepcion, Boquiren's 31-year-old son and a marketing graduate from San Beda College, appears to deliberately deviate from his mother's figural composition and explores the abstract idiom.

Mesina says that of Sikat's over 50 members, only about three percent are fine arts graduates. The rest are workshoppers and self-taught artists.

"This is a silent group," says Sena, "but if it continues, it could be a powerful group in the future. Because they have determination, they're solid, *me* discipline, *masipag*."

On May 12, the Philippine Heart Center gave Sikat the award for Best Group Exhibition. Which means the artistic component must be there.

"Every show *nila paganda nang paganda*," says Sena. "In exhibits is an excellent opportunity where the masters of tomorrow are made. *Basta tuloy-tuloy lang sila.* In art *naman* there is no unemployment... *Ito'ng* group *na may* commitment *sa masa.*"

Believing in the therapeutic power of art, the group conducts art workshops for molested children, the disabled, street children. Which shows they have a heart, an important factor in art.

Landscape as expression of feelings

By Constantino C. Tejero

A NEWCOMER in the local art scene worth watching is Ivee Olivares-Mellor. A Filipina married to a British national and who has settled in West Sussex, England, she is not quite a local, and not quite a foreigner, either.

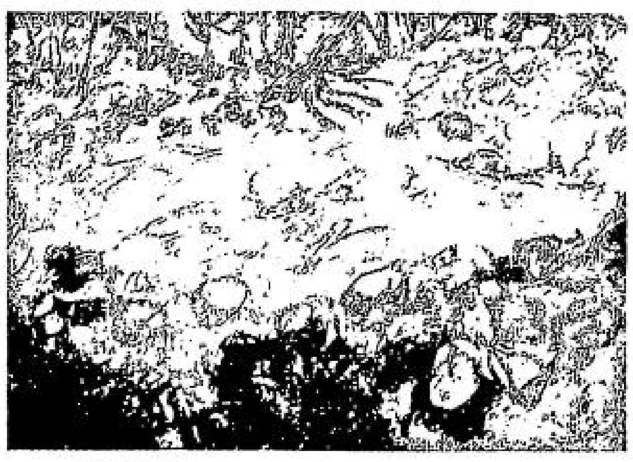
Having graduated from Ateneo de Manila University with a degree in interdisciplinary studies, and proceeded to major in painting and sculpture in the Chelsea College of Art and Design in London, she now produces art that's both European and Oriental in flavor, feel and sensibility. In a word, cool.

To push further the metaphor of intermarriage and estrangement, examine the 19 pieces in acrylic on paper in her show "Scribbled Landscapes," ongoing until June 4 in The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City.

In these pieces—done mostly in earth tones of brown, red, yellow, with green, and pastel shades of pink, orange, blue—she merges the scenic English countryside with memories of her home province of Zambales. What emerges is landscape that's not quite landscape. Rather, it's a quasi-abstract expression of feelings.

"They're not exact renditions of landscapes," admits the artist. "The lines are more expressive. And I have changed the colors—they're not real colors *naman*."

And they're not quite abstract, either. You can still see the trees, the parched earth, the outlines of the hill, the cloud, the running water.



"POOL"

They have quiet titles—"Pool," "Rhythm of the Hills," "Brief Landscape," "Dry Summer," "To the Valley," "Lines of Sky," "Low Tide"—as they depict nature at peace. Yet the broad strokes, the expressive lines, the thick application of paint evoke swirling emotions.

One finds in them the style and technique of Van Gogh. A bit surprised by the reminder, Olivares-Mellor acknowledges as much.

"He was into calligraphy," she says, "and I also love calligraphy. With those calligraphic lines, his paintings appear to be two-dimensional. Very expressive lines... My paintings are very linear. Lines give perspective."

Calligraphy, in fact, could have inspired the exhibit's title. And here is another intermarriage, that of Western and Oriental styles and techniques.

But there's a range of other artists that Olivares-Mellor admires: Amorsolo, Magsaysay-Ho, Bencab, Luz, Borlongan, Mark Justiniani, Picasso, Matisse, Pollock, De Kooning, Damien Hirst.

"Not so much Luna and Hidalgo," she says. "Though I don't do it, I also admire social realism. An English artist that I really like is Gary Hume."

Whatever influences these artists may have on her work are now being subsumed in her emerging style.

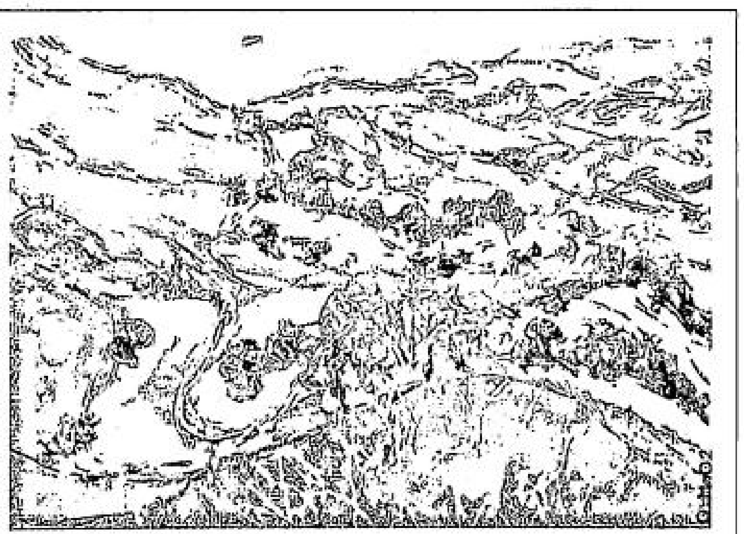
She also does cityscapes, portraits, figures, Mother and Child, of course. Her mediums range from oil to gouache and watercolor, though she's more comfortable with acrylic.

"I find acrylic more modern," she says, "because it's more plastic, flatter. Oil has this body, this sheen, and you have to apply it in layers."

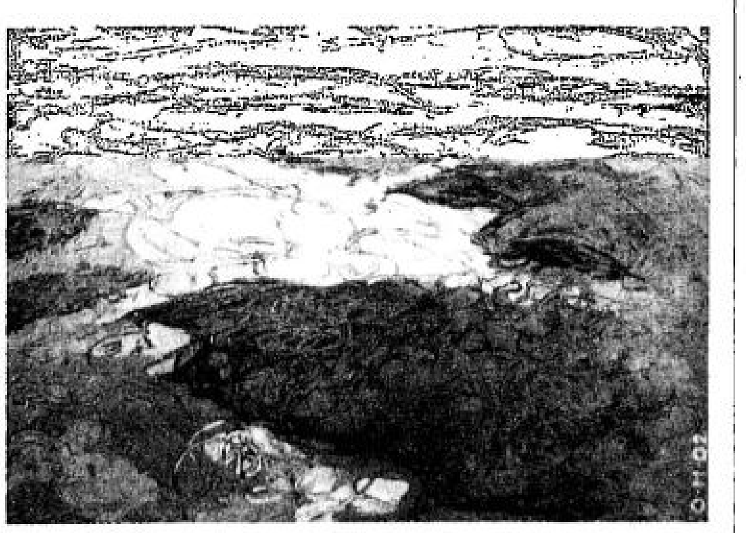
Conceptual sculpture she also does, installations using space to create an atmosphere.

"I use flowers, leaves," she says. "It's nature also. *Parang* landscape *na rin*."

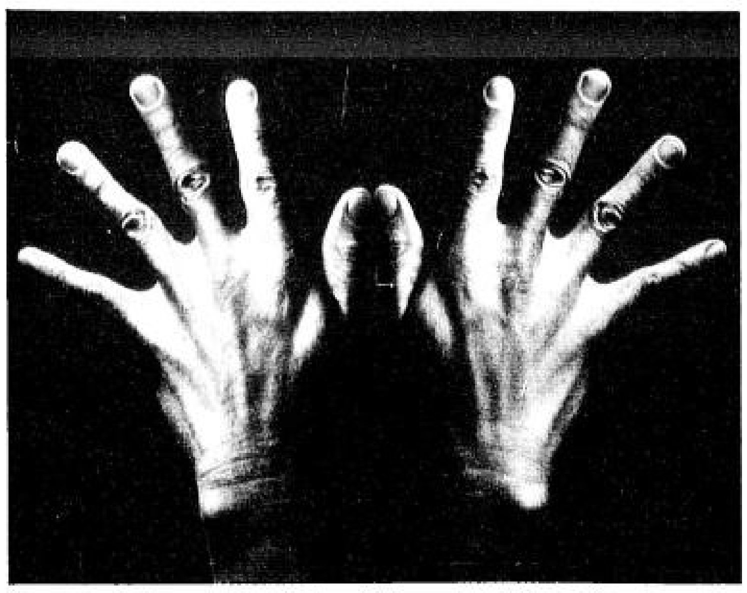
"Scribbled Landscapes" is Olivares-Mellor's first solo exhibit of her artworks, and she has returned to the country just for this, determined to make a name for herself in the land of her birth.



"RHYTHM of the Hills"

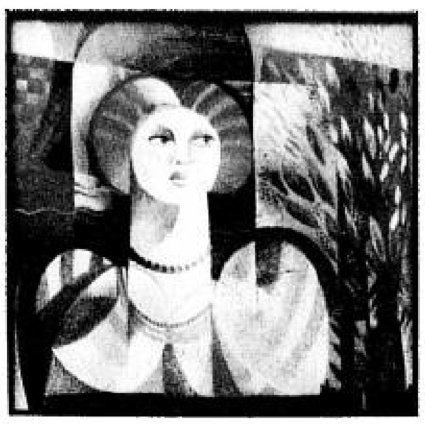


"LOW Tide"



"RIGHTS," oil on canvas, by Ronald Ventura at West Gallery-Glorietta

ARTIST Ivee Olivares-Mellor, British Ambassador Paul Dimond and presidential legal adviser Avelino Cruz during the opening of Mellor's exhibit at The Drawing Room.



"FIGURA," oil on canvas, by Vittorio Maria di Carlo at Duemila

Ventura at West and Big & Small

VISUAL ARTS

RONALD Ventura holds simultaneous solos at the West Gallery in Glorietta and at The Big & Small Art Co. in SM Megamall starting June 5. Titled "X-squared," both shows will feature Ventura's take on double meaning and multiple perspectives in which the human body is seen. Call 752-7028.

THE PODIUM'S second-floor activity center presents Sylvia Amorsolo-Lazo in her first solo show ongoing until June 4. Titled "Reminiscing," the exhibit features Lazo's retrospective still life and landscape paintings.

Batanes goes the way ...

From page E1

cannot hide the fact that the rolling pasture land has now lost most of its grass cover due to overgrazing, exposing the soil that slides into the sea with each rain. Mud in the sea damages the coral cover. When the coral goes, so do the fish, reducing the food supply for the Ivatan.

Very recently, a reforested area in the isolated island of Itbayat literally went up in smoke from a recent fire that burned away young trees planted to check erosion.

Degrading culture

Culture is degrading as well. Many Ivatans now feel that maintaining their culture roots them to a past that they would rather forget. Being up to date means embracing new ideas, one of them the remodeling of the traditional Ivatan stone house.

Modern construction methods (cement and steel framing) are totally incompatible with the traditional stone houses that are held together by lime mortar. Concrete is mistaken as the material of modernity, but is it compatible with traditional construction?

The truth is that concrete reacts violently with lime to the extent of endangering the structure. All of the traditional structures repaired or prettified with concrete are accidents waiting to happen. We should not wait for the next earthquake to realize that traditional houses should be repaired with traditional materials worked in traditional methods.

Each environmental and cultural action triggers a chain of interrelated repercussions. Many times the chain moves too fast for preventive interventions, so the Ivatans should be on close watch.

The end for Batanes will happen when the Ivatan decides to go the way the rest of mainland Philippines has gone, a direction that guarantees the loss of the traditional support systems that assure continued sustainability for the Ivatan.

Mainland ways are not applicable to the Ivatan. An outsider like me quickly sees that.

What an outsider like me has a hard time doing is telling the Ivatan to take a second look at his special environment and culture. Going back to his roots is what will bring him into the future, as the old Philippine saying goes.

It is just that everything has always fit together so well in Batanes: the environment, the landscape, the culture, and the way the Ivatan weaves all those elements into complete harmony.

The fit still works well today. Not many people remain in this world who live with a harmony as good as what they have.

My problem as an outsider committed to the conservation of Batanes is to make the Ivatan realize that much of his traditional ways are compatible with the 21st-century lifestyle because for him the grass is greener on the other side.

What the Ivatan should realize is that he should continue doing things differently, the way he always has done. He stops being Ivatan if he adopts the ways of the mainland.

And when that happens, it spells the end of the magic of Batanes.

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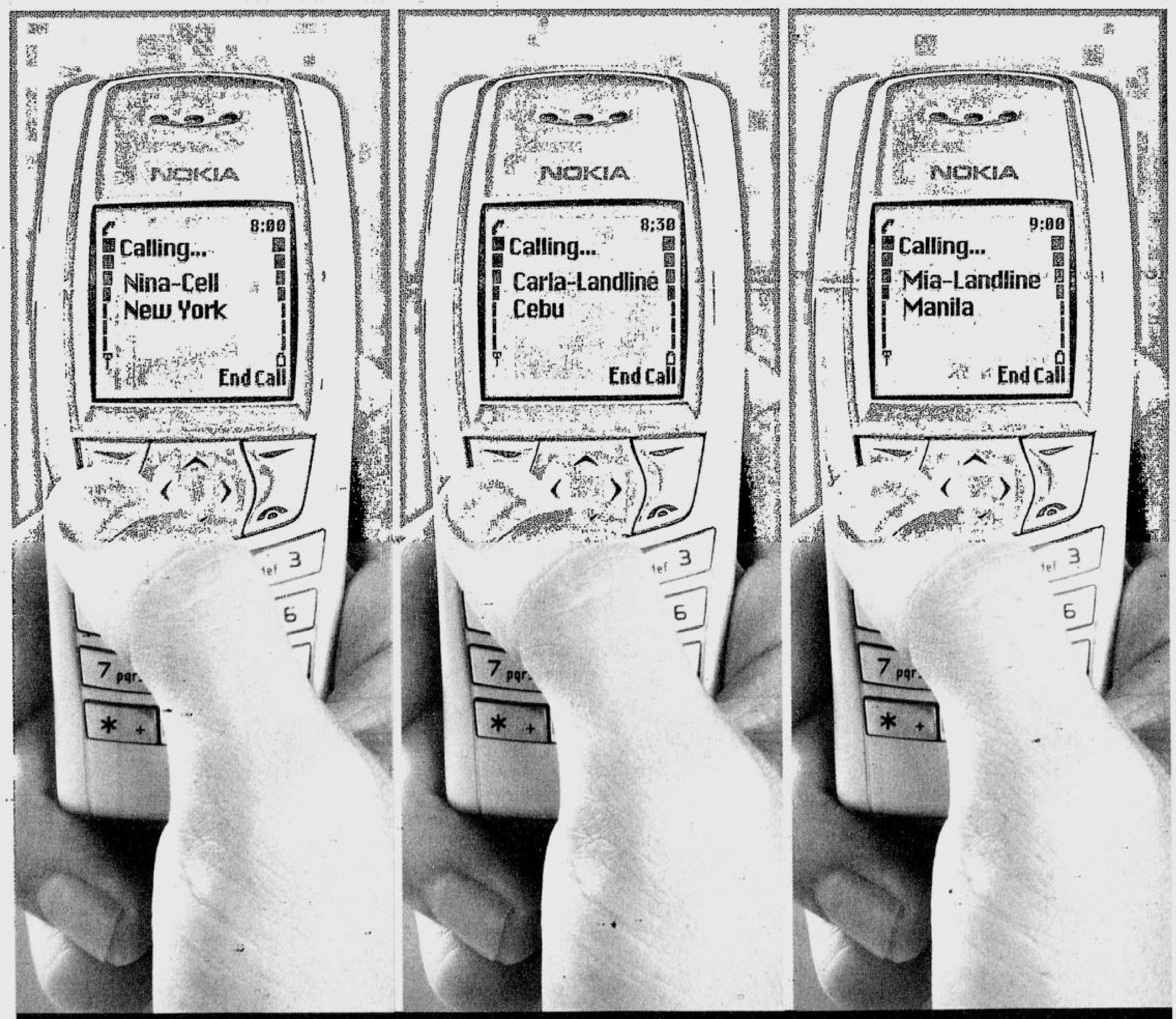
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Obie-winning Fil-Am play comes to the Philippines

THE PLAY, "The Romance of Magno Rubio," will open at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) on July 16 as part of the Sangandaan Festival.

The Ma-Yi Theater Company production was considered one of off-Broadway's highlights this season and received various honors at the recent 48th Annual Obie Awards held in New York's Webster Hall.

An adaptation of Carlos Bulosan's short story about the life of a Filipino farm worker in post-Depression California, it won Obies for playwright Lonnie Carter, director Loy Arcenas, actors Art Acuña, Ramon de Ocampo, Ron Domingo, Jojo Gonzalez and Orlando Pabotoy; and lyricist Ralph B. Peña.

Also part of the team were Fabian Obispo (original score), James Vermeulen (lighting), Myunghee Cho (costumes), and Kris Jackson (movement coach), among others.

Awarded for the lyrics, Ma-Yi's artistic director, Peña, also wrote additional Tagalog text for the play. "I was particularly keen on Lonnie's use of verse because it echoes traditional Filipino forms like the Seinete and the Balagtasan. I knew it was going to be a challenge, but we had a great team in place."

Peña's play "Flipzoids" received an Obie in 1997 for Ching Valdes-Aran's performance.

This year, the Village Voice Obie Awards, off-Broadway's highest honor, were hosted by Charleyne Woodard and Bill Irwin. Presenters included Edward Albee, Eddie Izzard, Martha Plimpton and Liev Schreiber.

Ed Norton, Lynn Redgrave, Rosemary Harris, Fiona Shaw, Simon Russell Beale, David Greenspan, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music were among this year's Obie awardees.

Jorge Ortoll, Ma-Yi Theater's executive director, said they were happy for the awards received by members of their team.

"THE ROMANCE of Magno Rubio's" cast of five Fil-Am actors and their Obies: (from left) Jojo Gonzales, Orlando Pabotoy, Art Acuña, Ramon de Ocampo and Ron Domingo

New York Times theater critic Bruce Weber called Ma-Yi one of the most important companies in New York's theatrical quilt. A-Magazine called Ma-Yi "the most important incubator of Asian American theater talents in the country."

After the play's run at the CCP, "Magno Rubio" will begin a tour of regional theaters across the United States, including The Laguna Playhouse in California, The Victory Gardens in Chicago, and the Fairfield Theater in Connecticut. Ma-Yi also hopes to bring the production to theaters in San Francisco, and Seattle, and to festivals in Europe and Cuba.

Ma-Yi Theater Company's board of directors include Ding Pajaron, Francis Tayag, Mars Custodio, Etan Merrick, Dee Litchfield, Nora de la Serna, Richard Lee, Antonious Porch, Amador Muriel, Lourdes Obillo, Odelia Pablit and Theresa Maja Schultz.

An award-winning adaptation of a Carlos Bulosan short story will be staged at the CCP

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Spit's improvisational theater

Spontaneity is the name of the game.

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

SPIT!

Not that sticky liquid from your mouth, but the most out-of-this-world answer or situation you can think of—and you just might find yourself being treated to one of the funniest shows in town.

SPIT—which may or may not mean Special People in Theater—has been gathering crowds at its Tuesday late-night (10 p.m. and beyond) gig at the Comfort Room Bistro in Jupiter Place, Makati.

Unlike other comic forms of theater wherein you just sit back, take your coffee, and relax, the 11-man group's brand of improvisation theater demands your participation if it is to work.

There may be a structure and a theme, but there are no scripts, no ready answers, and anything can happen.

Remember the traditional trite beauty contest which has the hapless pretty contestants trying to answer the one important question on a slip of paper that could make them win or lose the crown? In SPIT's hands, the answers are far from predictable. The actor playing the emcee turns to the audience and asks, "What's your question?"

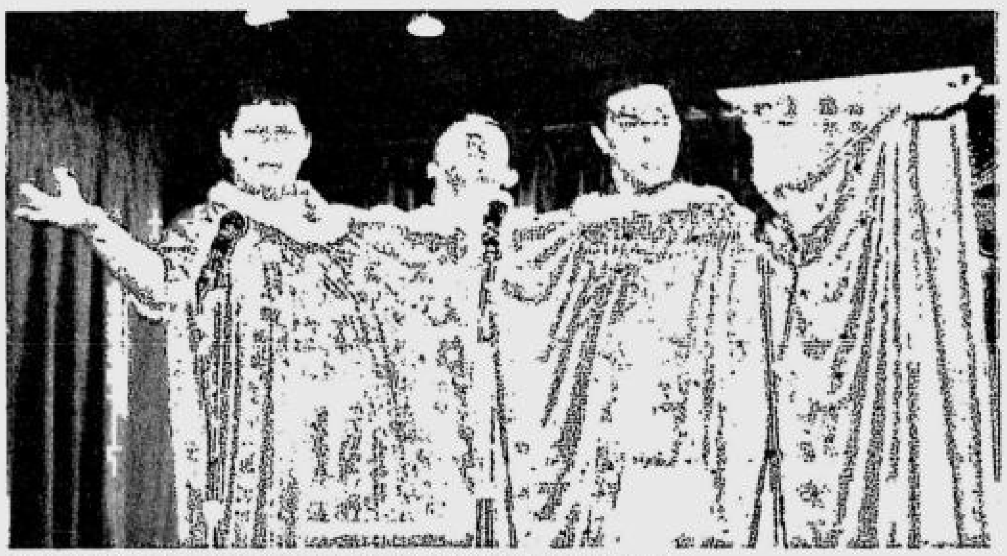
One guy hollers from the dark, "Name the three most important parts of the atomic bomb!"

Now watch the girl actor in line squirm or run with the ball with an answer that can top that—and throw the next scene back to her partner beside her.

In another scene, actor A berates actor B for not returning his calls. Actor B says that he just got an urgent message from his answering machine requiring his immediate attention.

For this actual message, he turns to the audience. Another

SPIT'S/F2



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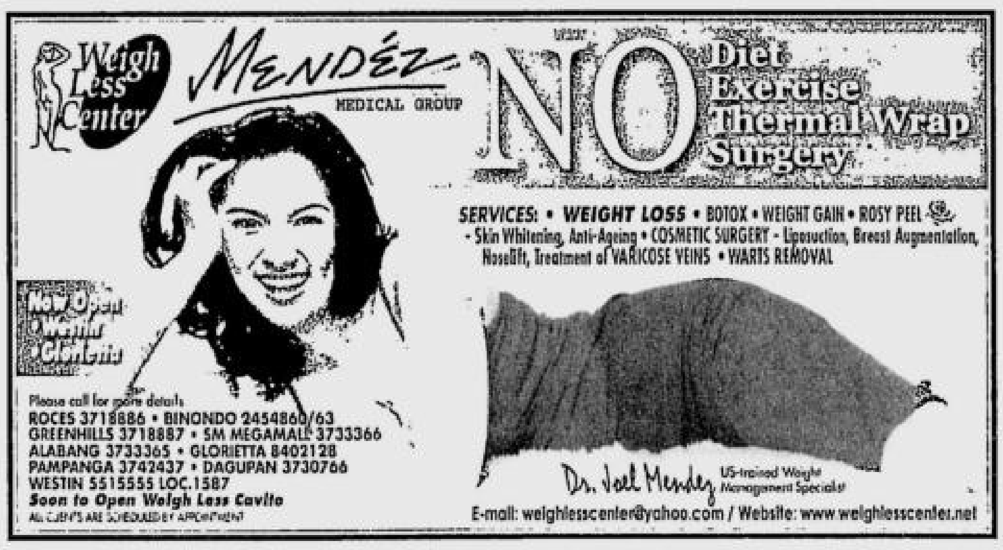

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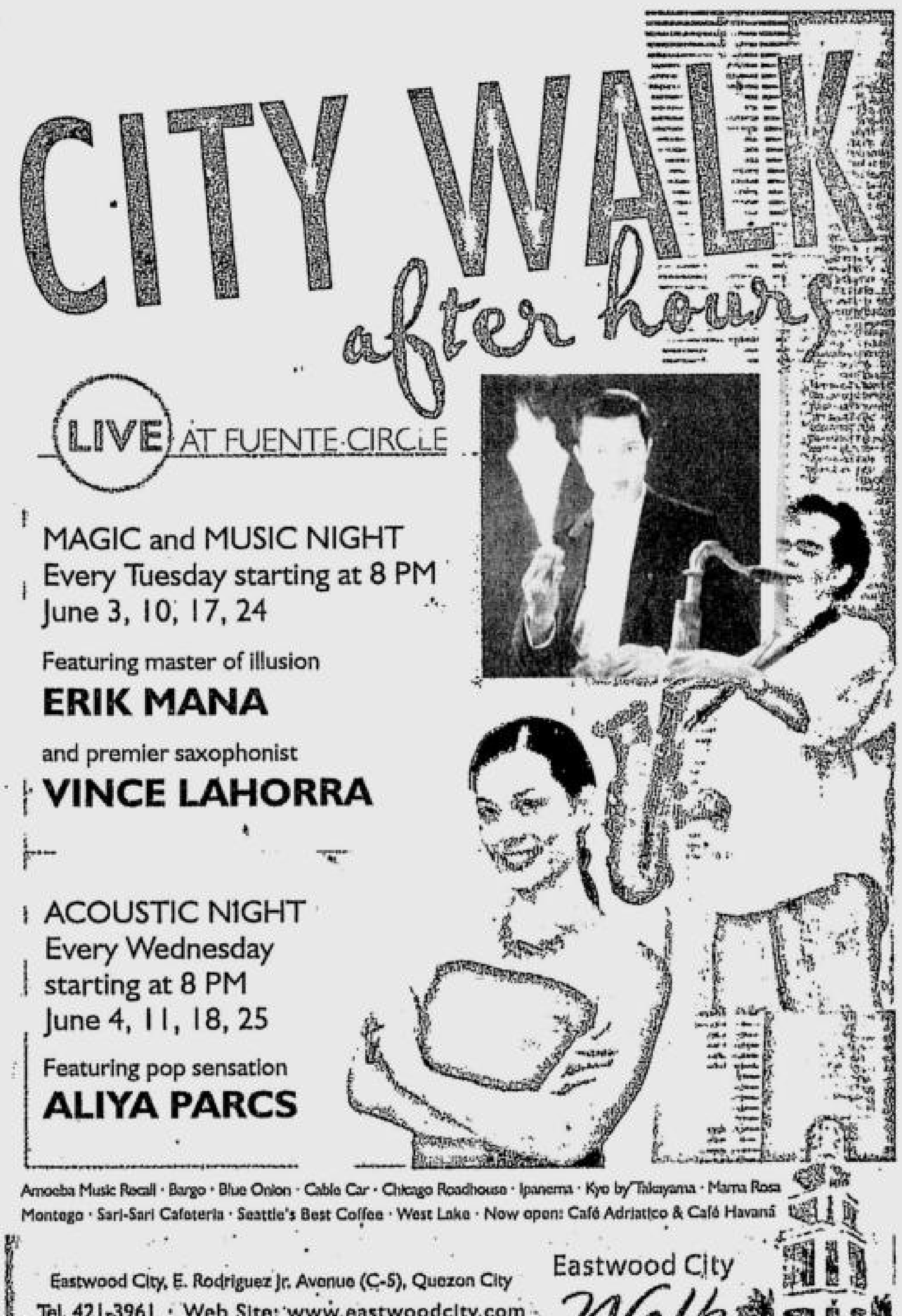

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NAJIB ISMAIL

The perfect accompanying pianist

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

ONE OF the real joys of mounting a concert or organizing a music festival is seeing how artists grow, how they collaborate with other artists and how they metamorphose into good teachers to young talents.

I first met pianist Najib Ismail when I asked him to page-turn for Cecile Licad and Antonio Meneses in their Manila Metropolitan Theater and CCP duo debuts in 1988. In 1992, I brought him to Catanduanes to accompany soprano Luz Morete in the first and last arts festival in the island on the same year. (Singing Schubert and Handel, Morete had everything that I admired in Dame Joan Sutherland and Victoria de los Angeles.)

The pianist, Najib Ismail, had a unique touch that worked superbly well in art songs and oratorios. He and Morete were a perfect partner, and that's the reason I insisted on Najib Ismail to perform at the CCP and at the Met, and much recently, at the Pasig music festival where he was the superb assisting artist for violinist Chino Gutierrez, soprano Rachelle Gerodias and the baritone revelation of the year, Noel Ascona.

(But it was in Ismail's UST graduation recital sometime during our concert forays to Catanduanes that I discovered he was also an excellent soloist. The chamber musician in him served him well in his orchestra debut later with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.)

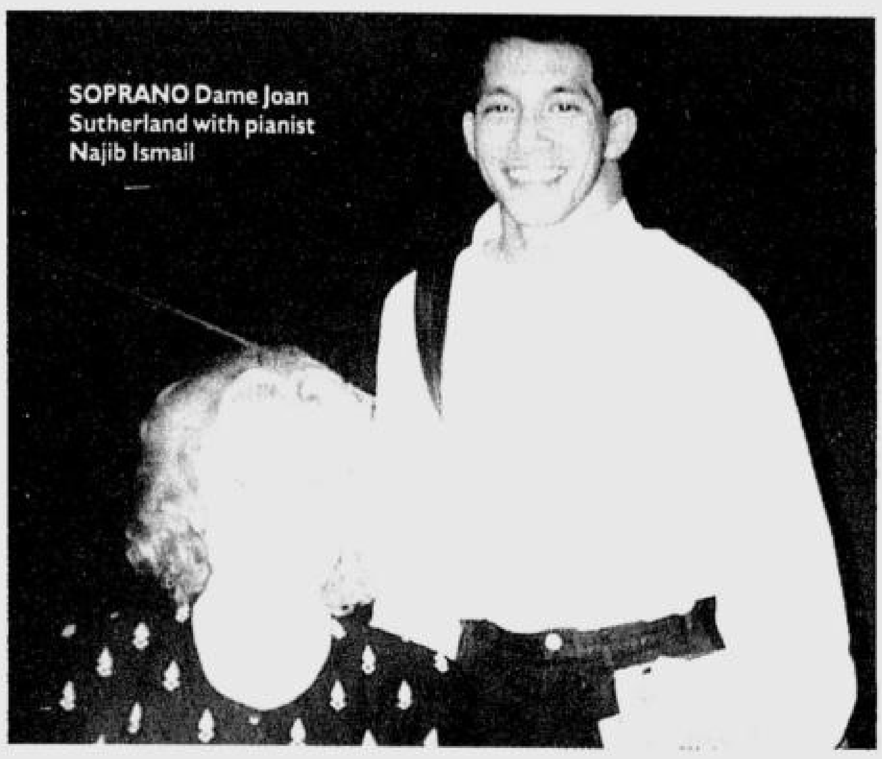
Ismail is Muslim. His father plays the violin and his mother plays the *kulintang*. Everyone in this Muslim brood had early piano lessons, but it was Ismail who must have loved it the most because he pursued music as a career.

Last year, I brought him to Cagayan to accompany tenor Lemuel de la Cruz and flutist Agustina de la Luna Deyro two weeks before the Tuguegarao debut of Cecile Licad. In that first major solo recital of the tenor, I was convinced the rousing standing oration was not just for the singer and the flutist but for the excellent and authentic collaborative artist.

For one, Ismail doesn't just play. He makes suggestions to both artists and impresario on how to improve a program, and, most of the time, he is right.

We were in the middle of a command performance at the Archbishop's Palace for the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Ms Conrado Diaz (parents of filmmaker Marilou Diaz-Abaya) when I whispered to Ismail in between numbers, "I feel the program is too long. Can we cut the succeeding two numbers?" The pianist said he felt that, too, and so we edited the program on the spot to good result.

I wasn't surprised when I learned that during his stint at the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts where he was a scholar, his teacher brought him to Australia to play for the master classes of one of my favorite divas, Dame Joan Sutherland.


SOPRANO Dame Joan Sutherland with pianist Najib Ismail

SUTHERLAND in a TV special

Ismail was assigned to accompany five singers, and in the first *lieder* master class, Dame Joan heard him accompany someone singing Duparc's "La Invitation a Voyage." After this number, the diva approached him and remarked, "Wonderful pianist... simply wonderful."

He was really scared because the next day, he was to accompany the diva's students in the aria master class, which went very well.

Recalled Ismail: "Dame Joan is a nice person with a great sense of humor. She can identify the singer's problem very quickly. She solves every technical problem by working at it on a purely musical context, which is great because she doesn't even demonstrate."

From his experience thus far, what does it take to have good rapport with fellow artists?

The pianist says, "You have to be extremely sensitive and open-minded to various musical interpretations, and at times, be able to compromise. On top of this, you should learn the art of diplomacy and tactfulness."

Here and there

The most abused words by publicists in the arts scene are world class, diva and virtuoso.

World-class you can only apply to artists who did consistently well in the last five years and in more than five continents playing in major cities and venues, and after working with majors artists and major musical ensembles.

Diva doesn't apply to singers still studying in music schools and have not appeared in major recitals and opera performances in major venues in major cities world-wide. Divas should have a track record of at least more than five superb performing years with consistently good reviews. Singers who deserve the title so far are Maria Callas, Mirella Freni, Victoria de los Angeles, and Dame Joan Sutherland. Those who have sung in Brunei and Moscow to disastrous reception and ended up singing in shopping malls have no right to use this word.

Virtuoso is a word conferred on brilliant soloists, not on ordinary member of orchestras with token record as soloists. It is earned from critics and colleagues and perceptive audiences, not from relatives, friends and publicists.

For example, the first Filipino violin virtuoso was Ernesto Vallejo. The next generation of violinists were good, if excellent violinists, but not necessary virtuosi, in the real sense of the word.

The first and the last Filipina virtuoso was Carmencita Lozada, who was also the first and the last Filipino prize-winner of the Paganini Competition. We have other excellent lady violinists, but the closest to becoming the next woman virtuoso is Eliza Quirit, daughter of violinist and conductor Julian Quirit. The rest are just promising artists whose publicists willfully use "world-class" and "violin diva" without knowing the true meaning of those sacred words.

JAPAN'S "LIGHT AND SOUND EQUIPMENT GRANT" TO SINAG ART
Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Kojiro Takano (right) and Armand Alegre (left), chair of Sinag Arts Foundation, shake hands after the hand-over ceremony of the light and sound equipment to Sinag Arts Foundation under the Government of Japan's Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Project. The grant amounted to US$54,393. This was capped with the performance of "Hues in Harmony" by the Hiraya Men's Chorus and the 2003 Intensive Technical Workshop Graduates at the Sinag Arts Studio in Mandaluyong City on May 25.

Spit's improvisational theater

From page F1

voice from the dark yells, "Brand X is the photoshop *ng bayan*."

Actor B stammers a bit, thinks, then says, "The message said, 'Brand X is the photoshop *ng bayan*.' I realized that I had go to back to Brand X because the first pictures I developed were damaged."

The ball now falls on Actor A, who has to come up with a funny repartee to that lame excuse.

Different twist

"It's more like a sporting event than a show," says TV actor and founding member Gabe Mercado. "The audience gives you a challenge and we act out this scene. If we pull it well, they applaud because they know *na pinahirapan nila kami*. This does get the audience on our side."

The old theater adage about each theater performance being different from the rest gets a different twist here. Because in SPIT's case, each audience member is bound to give a different answer each time.

Theater actor Joel Trinidad says that in the absence of scripts, the group prepares games. "Each has its rules, varying from day to day. One day, the scene involves x number of people, a topic that the characters will be talking about, etc. The scenes are specific—and still get all sorts of answers in all the different categories.

"It is very structured but there's a lot of craziness. Some scenes last longer, some take minutes. You can see the faces of the audience when you use your suggestion—they become shareholders of the show."

Eccentric bunch

Trinidad and Mercado are the more recognizable faces in the bunch. The rest of the gang are made up of equally creative theater-loving artists, most of whom hold jobs or "*rakets*" at day and channel all their energies into their passion at night: Beepsie Mercado, Gabe's wife who's currently taking up her Master's degree in education; Rodel Mercado of Dulaang UP and the Actor's Workshop Foundation (AWF); freelance writer/editor/actor Akong Bongcaras; songwriter, guitarist, and record producer Jay Ignacio; actress and singer Carelle Mangaliag; TV producer Karla P. Montalbo; Dingdong Rosales, also of the AWF; opera singer Geraldine Tan; and business school teacher Tommy Alvarado Jr.

THEATER actor Joel Trinidad (left) leads the SPIT ensemble.

Though it has been performing at Jupiter Place since January, SPIT's eccentric bunch of individuals really started meeting in February 2001. It was a matter of artists creating and crafting their own vision, and finding other kindred souls who happened to be old classmates, colleagues, and friends of friends.

The idea was born when Gabe read a book on improvisational theater while on a TV gig in Singapore. One of the highlights of his honeymoon with Beepsie was watching Paul Sills, said to be the art form's father.

SPIT thrives on spontaneity and is built on trust. The bonding formed during the formative years is critical, since the actor's regular inclination to hog the limelight could spell a flop. The design of each game is a result of teamwork. Gabe steps in as "unofficial director" only if he has to.

He explains, "During the game, I have to say yes to what my co-player does. If he says that we are in space, it would be a mortal sin to say that we are in the desert. I have to say, 'Yes, we are in space.' I have to set him up so that he can get in the moment and get the punchline. You don't grab the punchline for yourself.

"If I know an actor, I will not put certain impositions on him. If Rodel doesn't feel strong in singing spontaneously, I will not pass him a line that will force him to do that."

Going blank

Not all the gags work. There had been a few embarrassing occasions when the audience didn't find a line funny. There's always the danger that an actor can go blank. The group tries to move it along by adding a bit of zaniness.

In one particularly un-funny moment, with the audience simply sitting still, Gabe made one mock plea, "Come on, the faster you clap, the faster we'll be out of here!"

And there are times that "you just charge it to experience and become a better actor. It's okay if you blank out one second and then say something brilliant the next. But if you just blank out, that's bad."

Beepsie adds, "The biggest and most humbling learning in improvisational theater is humility. You are not always funny or doing the game right. You trust that someone else will catch you, because you can soar one moment and then flop the next."

The Comfort Room crowds are still packing it in, though. And it's still living up to its name which Trinidad, a former copywriter, coined.

"I wanted something to do with the words 'theater' or 'it.' But what runs with an F, I, and T, and yet is not shit? Spit! SPIT is snappy, irreverent, and easy to remember."

Call Tommy Alvarado at 0917-251-4829 or e-mail talvaradojr@yahoo.com.

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Theater company marks silver anniversary with morality plays

TANGHALANG Ateneo celebrates its 25th repertory season with four classic works, each a variation of the morality play.

The theater company seeks to stimulate reflection on the moralities of death, desire, degradation and politics in a year defined by a morally unjust war and the scourge of a new disease.

The season starts in July with "Bawat-Tao," the Filipino translation of the classic medieval morality play, "Everyman." The play was translated by Ronan Capinding, while set and costumes are by Salvador Bernal. Jovino Miroy directs the play, fusing medieval motifs and Filipino social practices.

In August, Ateneo will present Paul Dumol's classic "Ang Paglilitis ni Mang Serapio." Direction is by Ryan Villena. November features Tirso de Molina's masterpiece of the Spanish Golden Age, "Don Juan: Ang Babaero ng Sevilla." It will be directed by Ricardo Abad, the company's artistic director. The play was translated by Salvador Malig. Set and costumes are by Bernal. Staging of the play received a grant from the Program for Cultural. Cooperation.

Henrik Ibsen's modern morality tale, "An Enemy of the People," will hit the stage in February 2004. Directed by Abad, the play will be "transported" to a Philippine beach resort by production designer Gino Gonzales.

Tanghalang Ateneo's Silver Season of Plays will be capped by a reunion, wherein 25 of the company's most valuable alumni will receive special honors. For more information on Tanghalang Ateneo's plays and activities, call 426-6001 local 5056 or visit the Galian, 3/F Gonzaga Building, Ateneo de Manila University.

Erratum

In the profile last May 26 on pianist Albert Tiu, it was reported that he would play Beethoven's Third Symphony "Erotica" at the CCP Main Theater. It should have been "Eroica." Our apologies—*Ed.*

Claravall ballet group stages Wilde's 'Happy Prince'

OSCAR Wilde's "The Happy Prince," a touching tale of friendship, has been adapted by the Claravall School of Classical Ballet as a dance-drama to be shown at the Main Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines on June 5 at 7 p.m.

"The Happy Prince" is the story of a profound friendship between a swallow and a statue of a prince covered with precious jewels.

The prince, who weeps for all the suffering people he sees, begs the swallow to strip him of his riches and distribute them to the masses. In spite of the impending arrival of winter, the swallow stays to help the prince distribute his riches to the poor and disinherited of the city.

Using Philippine setting, the story unfolds in a series of classical and contemporary dance forms using a compilation of classical, contemporary and new age music. Students honed and trained in the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) technique, most of whom have passed the recent examinations given by RAD, were also given workshops by Michael Masiglat and Miguel C. Yee, both experienced artists from UST.

The school will also present "Bluebird" pas de deux, pas de deux from "Sleeping Beauty" and grand pas de deux from "Don Quixote." It will also showcase works of Filipino choreographers Dwight Rodrigazo, Victor Ursabia and Sol Fernandez.

In an effort to make ballet reach out to a wider audience, the school invited different groups such as Fr. Ben Beltran's Smokey Mountain dancers, Earth Savers of Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, Don Bosco kids, children from the Pasay Alliance Church, and the Hands of Mary Group.

Tickets are available at the lobby of CCP at P200 and P100. Call 825-9980.

TEACHERS empathizing with their pupils during an ice-breaker session.

Teaching requires courage, selflessness

From page F4

as little and earned the least respect.

He reminded the teachers that in the school system, they were the most important. "*Hawak ninyo ang kinabukasan ng mga kabataan*," he said.

The public school system had many problems but, to a true teacher, teaching was not just a job: it was the very meaning of his or her life, Pagsanghan said.

The Ateneo mentor was himself a product of a public school, having studied at the Cecilio Apostol Elementary School. He has been teaching for 52 years and has inspired over 9,000 students to be "a man for others.".

"THE EDUCATION Revolution is for the transformation of the Filipino soul," says FWWPP trustee Dr. Jose V. Abueva.

FWWPP chair Eggie Apostol and Supt. Edith Doblada

Pagsanghan said, "Education is primarily formation, not information. A teacher is one who knows the way, shows the way and goes the way."

Pagsanghan's talk was more like a series of stories, some humorous and others tearfully poignant. As he ended his talk, he went around, thanking each of the teachers and gently reminding them that Jesus Christ himself chose to be a teacher and that they were called "to be like Him."

The author is the executive director of Foundation for Worldwide People Power

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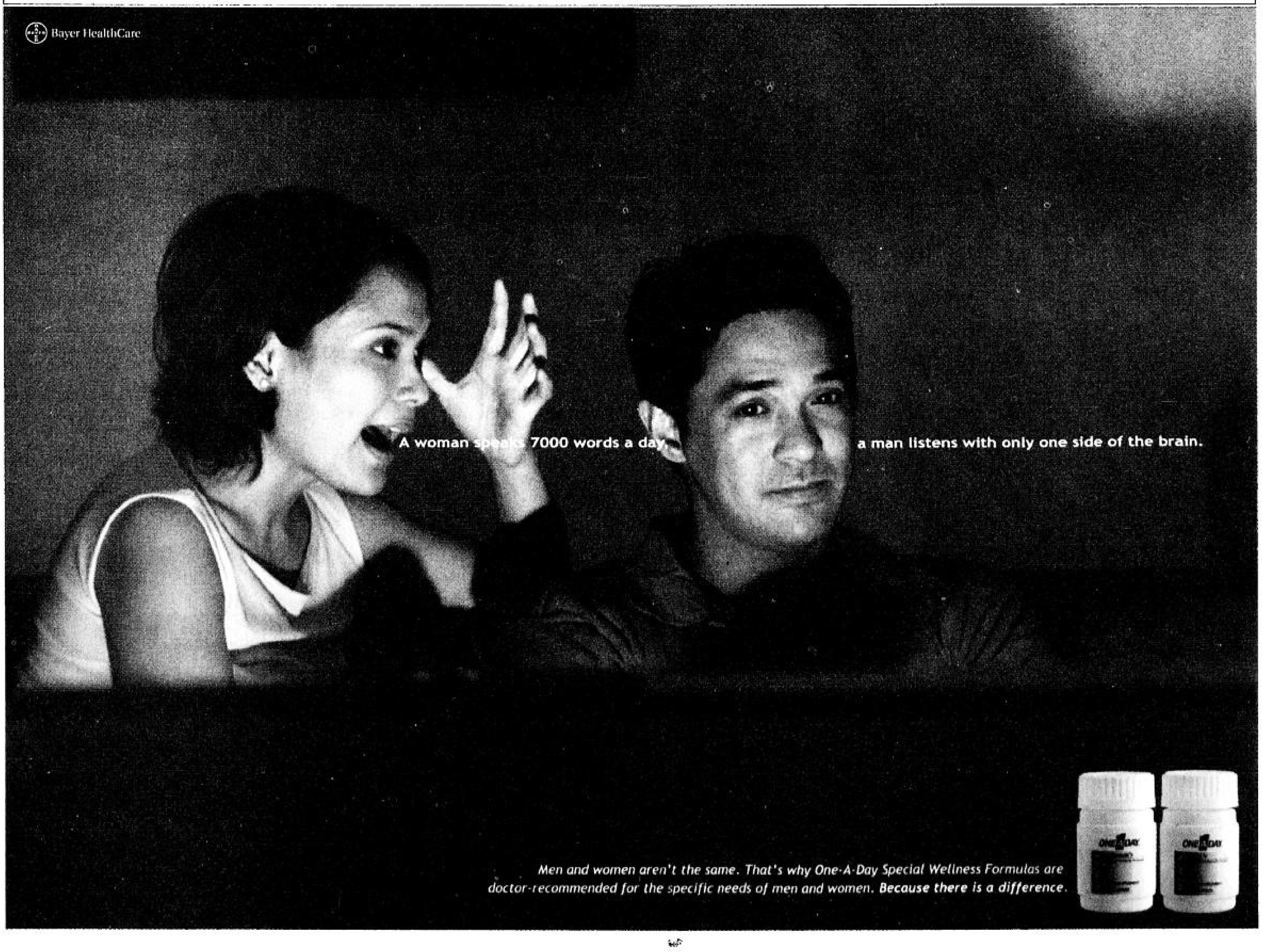

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EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Teaching requires courage, selflessness

Two leading educators remind teachers theirs is a noble profession

By Butch Hernandez
Contributor

EVEN Typhoon Chedeng's torrential rains could not dampen the enthusiasm of participants in the 1st Education Revolution School Empowerment Program at the Institute for Consecrated Life in Asia.

The entire faculty of Maybangcal Elementary School and its annex, the Sitio Talaga Elementary School, together with principals from various districts in Morong, Rizal, and the division of Caloocan underwent a course on intensive skills and motivation enhancement.

"A TEACHER touches lives forever," says Dr. Onofre "Sir Pagsi Kalbo" Pagsanghan.

"WALK the talk," Dr. Antonio Torralba tells teachers from Maybangcal Elementary School.

FWWPP president Dr. Maria Lim Ayuyao hands out prizes for "Best Actor" and "Best Actress" during the role-playing sessions.

Dr. Eden O. Kelemen, head of the Education Revolution School Empowerment Program Development Committee, and Dean Leticia Peñano Ho of the University of the Philippines' College of Education got the entire UP Task Force on Integration to drill the participants on content-based instruction, integrated teaching approaches and the various aspects of the Basic Education Curriculum.

Education Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo braved the rains and floods to give words of encouragement to the participants.

Rizal Supt. Edith Doblada thanked Eggie Apostol of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWWPP) for organizing the training seminar. She asked participants to really live what they had learned in the training sessions in support of the DepEd's vision of quality instruction, administration and supervision.

Dean Clotilde Arcangel of the University of Santo Tomas' College of Education, Supt. Elizabeth Manalo of the Division of Caloocan, Dr. Nelia Prieto of St. Joseph's College and Concepcion Pacia of the Poveda Center for Educators Formation are the other members of the School Empowerment Program development group.

Inspirational talks were given by Dr. Antonio Torralba, founding dean of the School of Education of the University of Asia and the Pacific, and the inimitable Dr. Onofre "Sir Pagsi" Pagsanghan of the Ateneo de Manila University.

Teaching is leadership

Torralba, "Tonton" to his friends, said a teacher was a leader because "a teacher is someone who shows."

Many people know Torralba for "The Joys of Teaching" and other books on values education and parenting.

Torralba said a leader was an individual who could know and decide for himself and who lived and was open to others. He added that the hallmarks of leadership were personal integrity, family solidarity, civic responsibility and universal charity.

Universal charity, in particular, was most applicable to teachers because it meant being equally attentive to the needs of all pupils, not just the good ones, Torralba said.

Delivering his talk in a very light manner, liberally spiced with large doses of humor, Torralba stressed that teachers could not teach unless they could do what they said.

"If we are to be true to our calling, we must cherish every moment that we are teachers and leaders, *Dapat magpakatotoo ka,*" Torralba said.

Valor needed in teaching

Quoting novelist Pearl S. Buck, Pagsanghan told participants that "only the brave should teach" especially in public schools because no other job asked as much, paid

TEACHING/ F3

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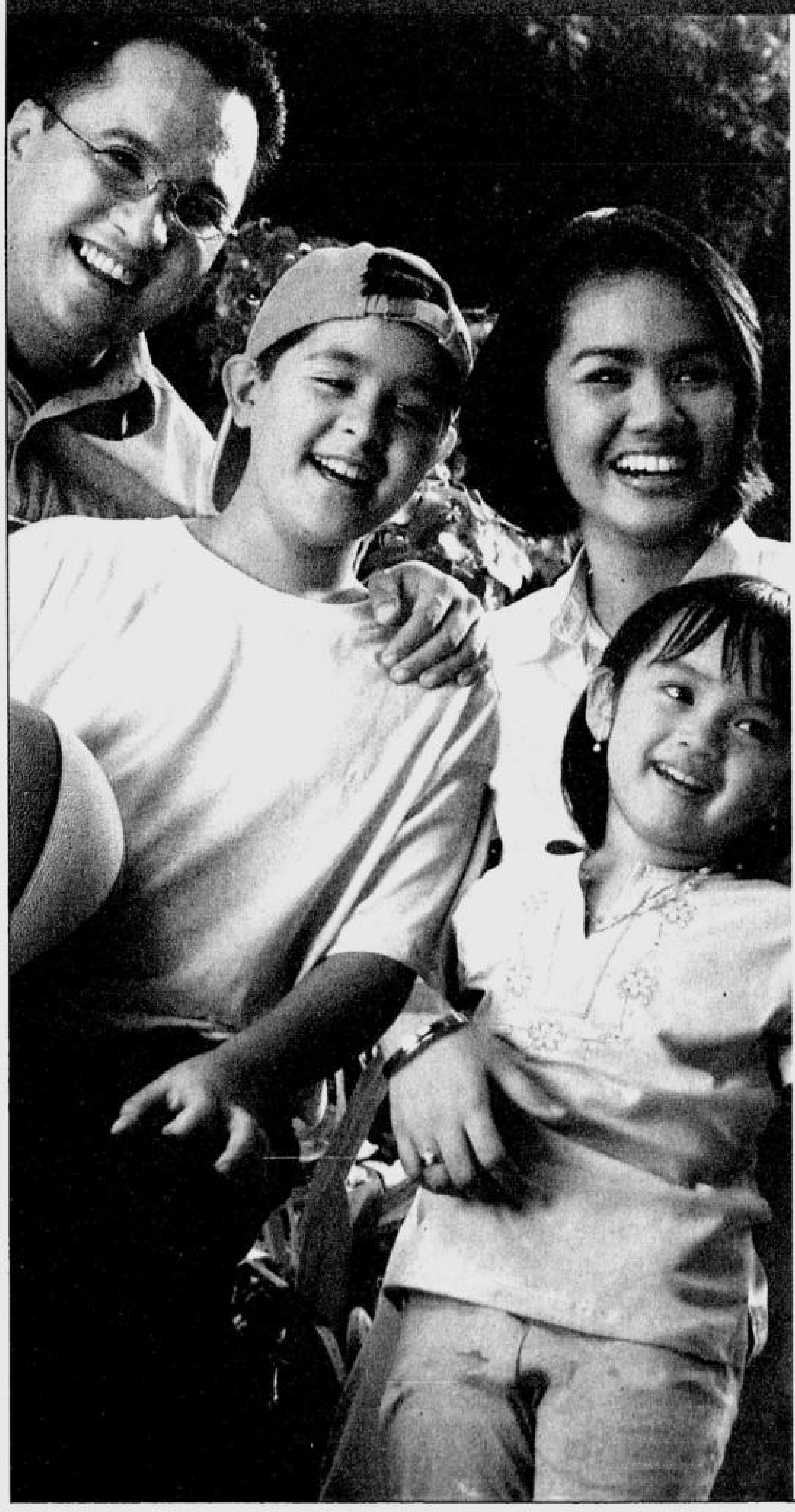

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WRITING fellows on their way to a session in Dauin town

THE FELLOWS on the way to a weekend at Casaroro Falls

Writing and giving in to Dumaguete

By Ian Rosales Casocot
Contributor

THE WRITERS had gathered in Dumaguete City again, as they do every year since 1962, in a rite of passage otherwise known as the Dumaguete National Writers Workshop.

For three weeks every May, it is easier to believe that writing is both sweat and magic, that this place bewitches, that writers are lovely people—give or take some peculiarities of character.

This year, there's University of Santo Tomas' Kit Kwe, whose sophisticated fiction almost bears no correlation to her small ballerina frame and her quirky tendency to invite anyone to a boxing bout à la "Fight Club."

The searing poetry of the University of the Philippines' Vincent Coscolluela could not stop him from becoming the first casualty of the nightly boxing bouts with Kit. He sported a black right eye for all three weeks of the workshop.

UP's Mark Anthony Cayanan, "perky" by self-definition and infamous for his lengthy bathroom rituals, was forever searching for that "one sensation" to complete his Dumaguete stay.

There's Ateneo de Manila University's Louella Fortez, whose asides about going to a girlie bar in Sibulan were unintentionally funny, endearing herself to the group that included Krip Yuson.

Perpetual Help College's Ken Ishikawa's grasp of the poetic wowed the workshop panelists. Outside the daily literary grind, he was known among the fellows as Alpha Male.

The quiet presence of UP's Anna Felicia Sanchez contrasted sharply with her incisive take on the literary texts, but also betrayed the subtle graces of her fiction—and her growing mastery of billiards at Barefoot and table tennis at DonDeezCo.

UST's Rosmon Tuazon, another quiet poetic type, was forever given to falsetto renditions of Stevie Wonder songs and boy band tunes.

University of Cebu's Rolando Salvaña's hilarious Cebuano strain of fiction (especially one about "cross-eyed fishes") was totally unlike his preference for detachment.

University of St. La Salle Bacolod's Jonathan Davila was Anthony Tan's constant companion in reggae concerts at Hayahay Bar, and Charlson Ong's videoke buddy.

Youngest fellow

Ateneo's Niccolo Vitug led everyone in countless sessions at KTV bars, mainly because he could not find any decent piano to play.

St. Theresa College's Nikki Paredes, at 14, was the youngest fellow in the history of the workshop. She was also the unassuming guide to eating *pusô* properly.

INSTITUTO Cervantes de Manila director Javier Galvan and Jose Ma. Fons talk with National Artist Edith Tiempo

Dumaguete is the 'x' on the map of the Philippine literary imagination

The taste for San Mig Light of UP's Carljoe Javier, science fictionist on the make, often rendered him tipsy and immobile. He was constantly talking to his girlfriend on his cell phone and was a master of Extreme Pusoy Dos and water-sliding in a Siquijor beach resort.

The panel of writers and critics was a mix of the country's best: National Artist for Literature Edith Lopez Tiempo herself, and Yuson, Ong, César Ruiz Aquino, Butch Macansantos, Bobby Flores Villasis, Ernesto Superal Yee, DM Reyes, Susan Lara, Tan, Dave Genotiva, Macario Tiu and Marjorie Evasco.

Anvil's Karina Bolasco, Nerissa del Carmen Guevarra, Joel Toledo, Jennifer Cariño, Peter Mayshle, Vincenz Serrano, Mickey Ybañez and Grace Monte de Ramos dropped by.

Perhaps what makes the Dumaguete workshop different from others is history. Dumaguete is the "x" on the map of the Philippine literary imagination.

In this place, the acacia trees run, the surf dances, the air is heavy with sepia memories, life is recalcitrant to change. It is a friendly place for the pen: To be a writer in the Philippines is to be, at heart, a Dumagueteño.

Philippine literature has lain claim to a mythic Dumaguete—the same literary sense of geography that embraces Manuel Arguilla's Nagrebcan, Carlos Aureus' Naga, Anthony Tan's Muddas, Nick Joaquin's Old Manila, and

WRITING/ G3

TIEMPO with co-panelists Macario Tiu and Charlson Ong

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Traditional cataract surgery poses a risk because the eye is opened through a 1-cm* wound that is closed by fine sutures at the end of the procedure. Even after closure, the wound remains weak and healing is prolonged.
4 Cataract Surgery does not require hospitalization.
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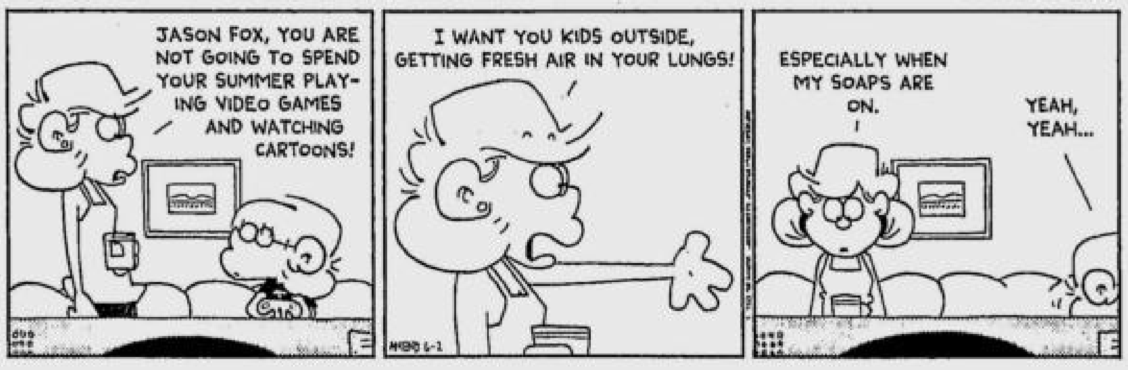
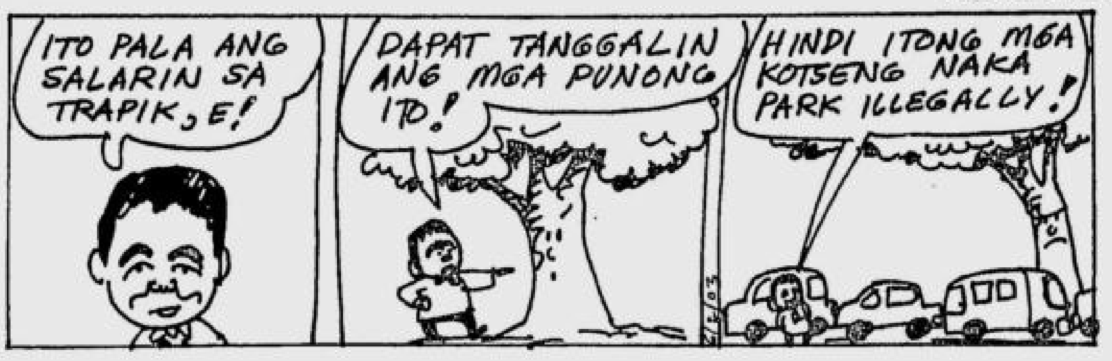

JASON FOX, YOU ARE NOT GOING TO SPEND YOUR SUMMER PLAYING VIDEO GAMES AND WATCHING CARTOONS!
I WANT YOU KIDS OUTSIDE, GETTING FRESH AIR IN YOUR LUNGS!
ESPECIALLY WHEN MY SOAPS ARE ON.
YEAH, YEAH...

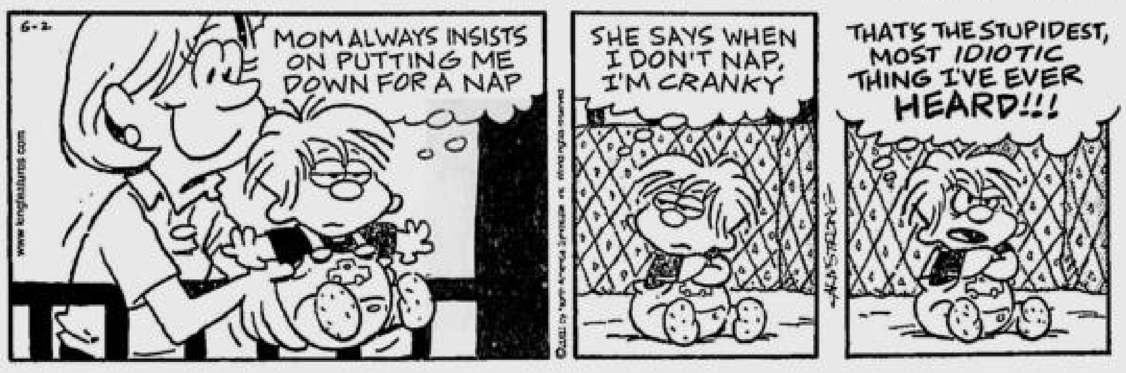
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ITO PALA ANG SALARIN SA TRAPIK, E!
DAPAT TANGGALIN ANG MGA PUNONG ITO!
HINDI ITONG MGA KOTSENG NAKA PARK ILLEGALLY!

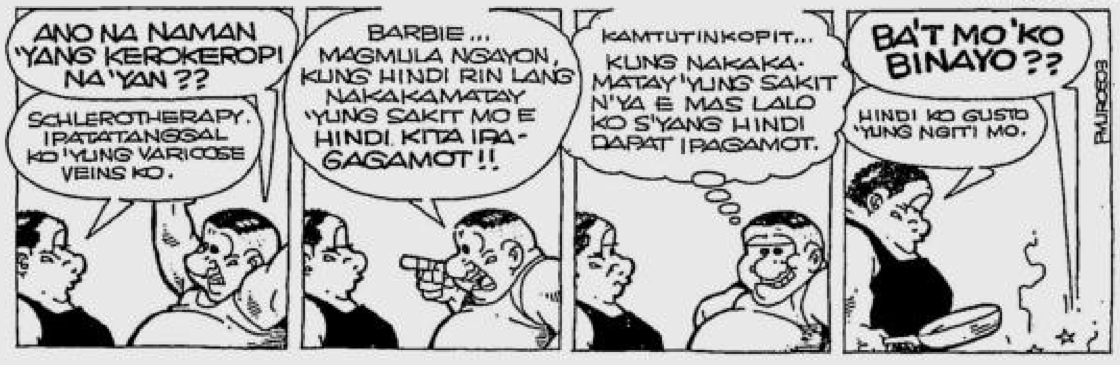
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MOM ALWAYS INSISTS ON PUTTING ME DOWN FOR A NAP
SHE SAYS WHEN I DON'T NAP, I'M CRANKY
THAT'S THE STUPIDEST, MOST IDIOTIC THING I'VE EVER HEARD!!!

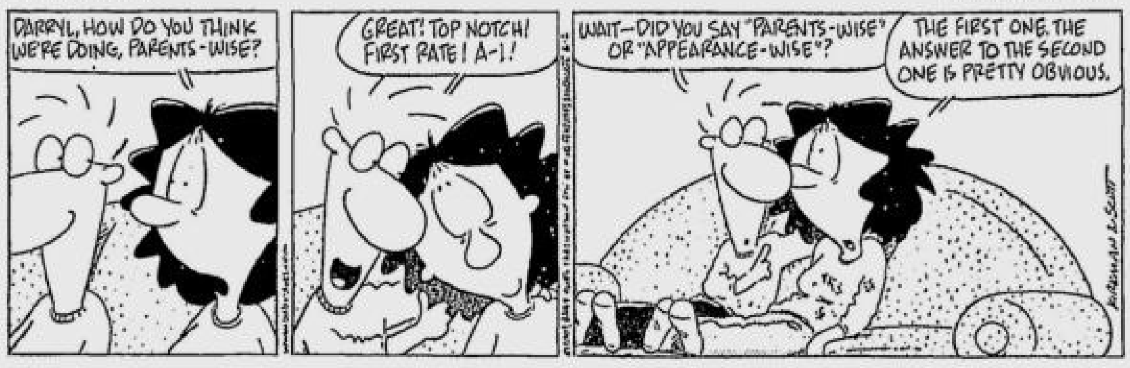
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO NA NAMAN 'YANG KEROKEROPI NA'YAN??
SCHLEROTHERAPY. IPATATANGGAL KO 'YUNG VARICOSE VEINS KO.
BARBIE... MAGMULA NGAYON, KUNG HINDI RIN LANG NAKAKAMATAY 'YUNG SAKIT MO E HINDI KITA IPAGAGAMOT!!
KAMTUTINKOPIT... KUNG NAKAKAMATAY 'YUNG SAKIT N'YA E MAS LALO KO S'YANG HINDI DAPAT IPAGAMOT.
BA'T MO'KO BINAYO??
HINDI KO GUSTO 'YUNG NGITI MO.

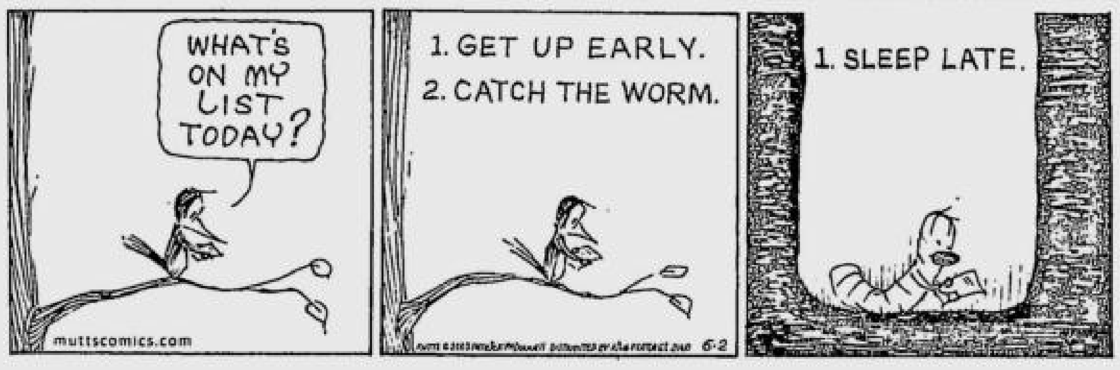
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DARRYL, HOW DO YOU THINK WE'RE DOING, PARENTS-WISE?
GREAT! TOP NOTCH! FIRST RATE! A-1!
WAIT—DID YOU SAY "PARENTS-WISE" OR "APPEARANCE-WISE"?
THE FIRST ONE. THE ANSWER TO THE SECOND ONE IS PRETTY OBVIOUS.

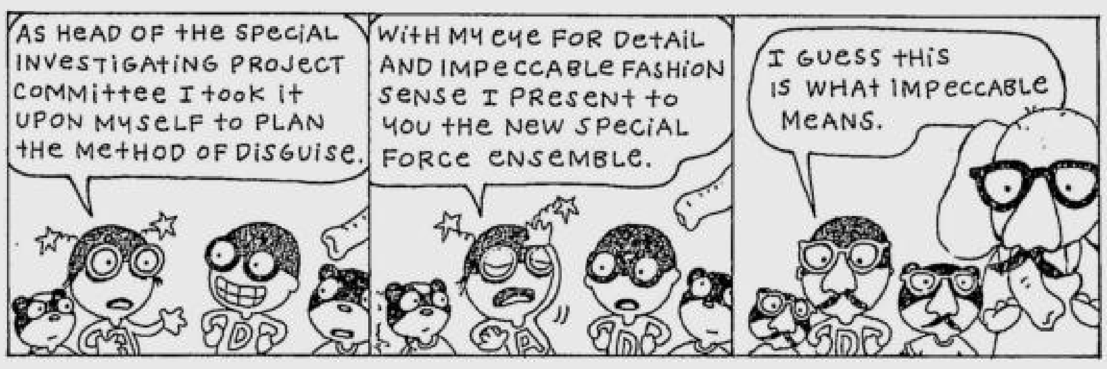
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'S ON MY LIST TODAY?
1. GET UP EARLY.
2. CATCH THE WORM.
1. SLEEP LATE.
muttscomics.com

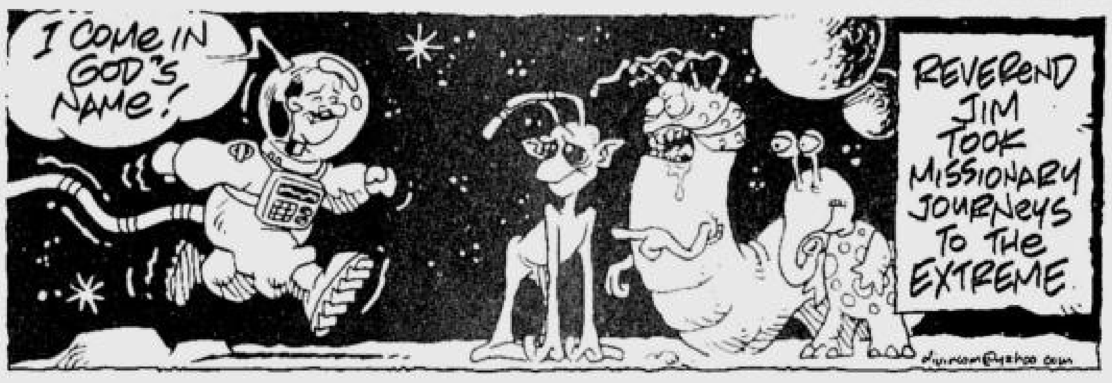
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AS HEAD OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATING PROJECT COMMITTEE I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF TO PLAN THE METHOD OF DISGUISE.
WITH MY EYE FOR DETAIL AND IMPECCABLE FASHION SENSE I PRESENT TO YOU THE NEW SPECIAL FORCE ENSEMBLE.
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT IMPECCABLE MEANS.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


I COME IN GOD'S NAME!
REVEREND JIM TOOK MISSIONARY JOURNEYS TO THE EXTREME

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are resourceful and excellent in problem-solving. Obstacles and adversity galvanize you into action. Life is never dull for you. You tackle new ventures with optimistic enthusiasm. You excel at helping others who are in difficult situations. People are grateful to know you. Work hard this year for rewards that will come in 2004. Birthdate of: Johnny Weissmuller, gold medal swimmer/actor; Stacy Keach, actor; Sally Kellerman, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): If there ever was a day when people were tempted to go overboard having fun—drinking too much, eating too much or just spoiling themselves—this is the day. Tread carefully!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be careful not to be deceived by someone with more authority or more experience than you. The deception might not be intended; it could be your own misinterpretation.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Be careful about signing important documents or buying things today. Your outlook is too optimistic to be realistic right now. You have to get real.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Be careful of all financial deals today. You are tempted to go overboard because something looks too good to resist. (Better to resist.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Friends and lovers might promise more than they can deliver. Similarly, you might make outrageous promises to them. Try to keep your feet on the ground.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Although your desire to help co-workers is sincere today, be careful you don't bite off more than you can chew. Be a bit more safe and conservative, and play your cards close to your chest.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a terrible day to gamble! You are really tempted to become involved in unrealistic schemes because of some kind of blind or extreme optimism. Cool your jets.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You don't have to rescue anybody at home. Kindness is important, but on the other hand, you have rights too. Don't be taken advantage of.

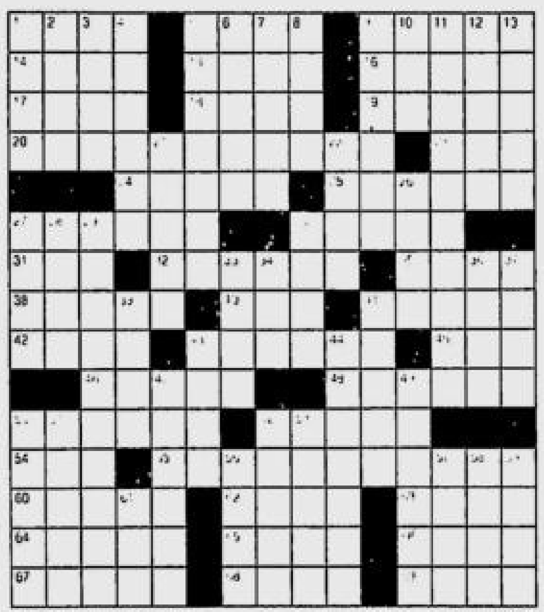
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might be tempted to give away the farm today. Don't do it. Your ability to calculate the risks in any kind of negotiation is poor at the moment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Money matters are confused today because you find it difficult to tell the difference between the real and the ideal. Wishful thinking could cost you money!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You must be careful today because you could idealize someone beyond all reason, even if he or she doesn't want you to. It's as if you have Vaseline on your lens when you see people today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Avoid any shady schemes or ideas that sound too good to be true today. Remember, there is a difference between amateur and professional gamblers.

DAILY CROSSWORD



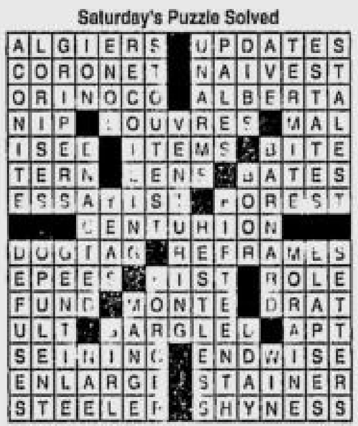
By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

6/2/03

ACROSS
1 Splinter group
5 Herring's kin
9 "Aida" or "Carmen"
14 Singer Fitzgerald
15 Adhesive strip
16 Having radial stripes
17 Surf sound
18 Chapters in history
19 Correct
20 Court proof
23 Teensy
24 T.S. __
25 Weirder
27 Inn for youth
30 Anwar of Egypt
31 Cash dispenser's letters
32 Dr. Seuss
35 Dundee dagger
38 Building level
40 1969 Oscar-winner Young
41 Low-cost
42 Abrupt blow
43 Trinidad's neighbor
45 Opp. of NNW
46 Surmise
48 "__ Fideles"
50 Wise counselor
52 Lost color
54 Director Lee
55 Court proof
60 Threw a fit
62 Highlander
63 Kaiser, e.g.
64 Practice piece
65 Lot of land
66 Dark, rich soil
67 Gaucho's address
68 Nerve network
69 Some linemen

DOWN
1 Feudal peasant
2 Race in "The Time Machine"
3 Extended family group
4 Wal-Mart rival
5 Aseptic
6 Chico's brother
7 In pieces
8 Lucy's love
9 Spoke pompously
10 Shriver of tennis
11 Court proof
12 Taylor of "The Nanny"
13 Venomous viper
21 Threnody
22 Patricia of "Hud"
26 Impulsive
27 Door hardware
28 Bologna eight
29 Court proof
30 Dreamcast maker
33 Sikorsky of helicopters
34 Bro or sis
36 Bridge position
37 Dueling sword
39 Flat fee?
41 Encrypted
43 Fork-tailed seabird
44 Sea of Israel
47 Livestock feed
49 Channel-swimmer Gertrude
50 Stable mothers
51 Maternally related
52 Hippie salutation
53 Turn away
56 Seaweed product
57 Opposite of midnight
58 Clothed
59 Shade providers
61 Old name of Tokyo

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



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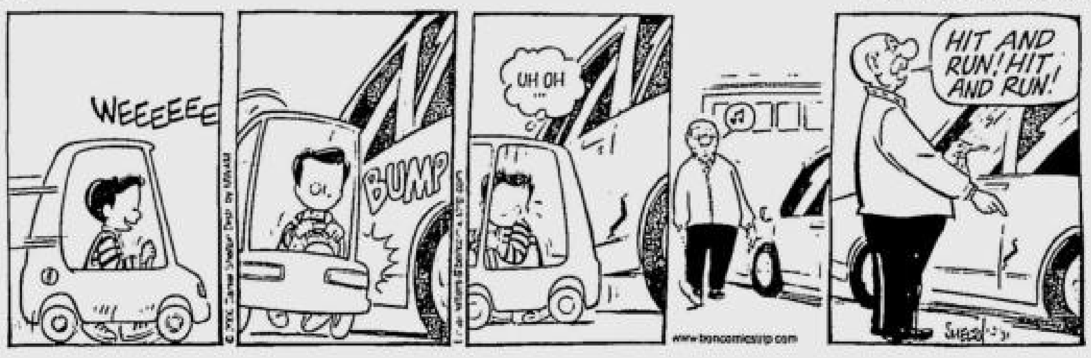
5/3/03

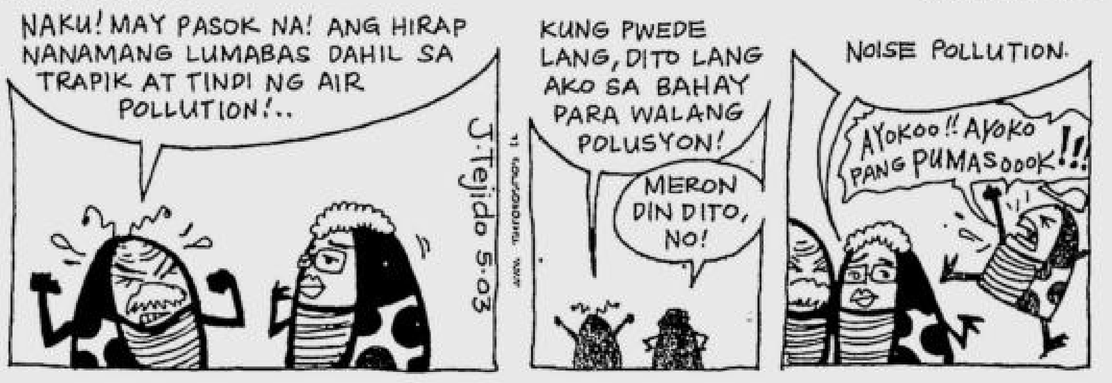
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WEEEEEE
BUMP
UH OH
HIT AND RUN! HIT AND RUN!
www.bencomicstrip.com

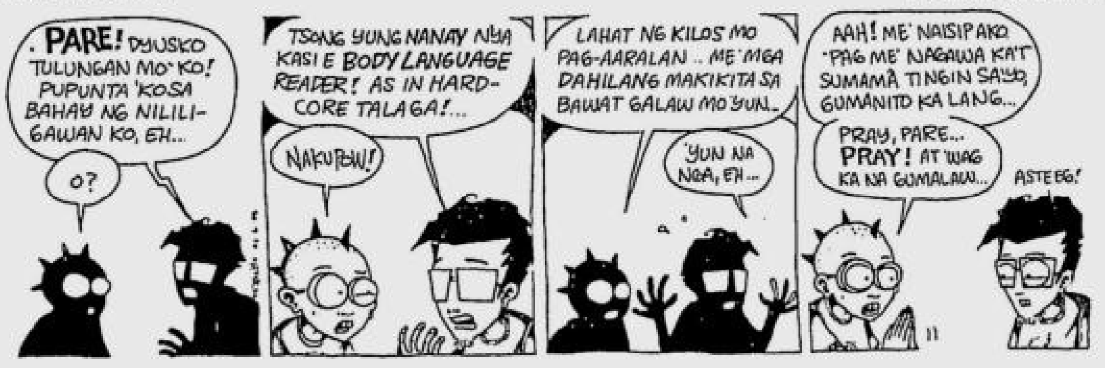
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAKU! MAY PASOK NA! ANG HIRAP NANAMANG LUMABAS DAHIL SA TRAPIK AT TINDI NG AIR POLLUTION!..
J. Tejido 5.03
KUNG PWEDE LANG, DITO LANG AKO SA BAHAY PARA WALANG POLUSYON!
MERON DIN DITO, NO!
NOISE POLLUTION.
AYOKOO!! AYOKO PANG PUMASOOOK!!!

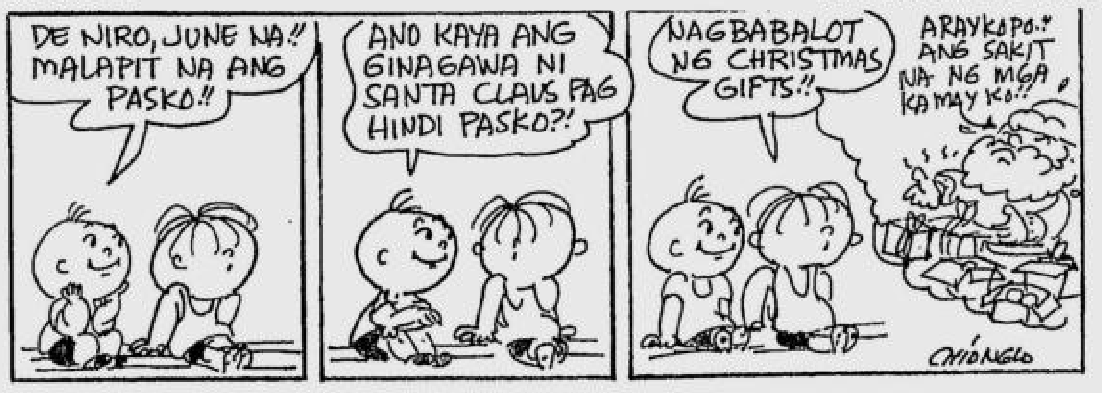
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PARE! DYUSKO TULUNGAN MO'KO! PUPUNTA 'KO SA BAHAY NG NILILIGAWAN KO, EH...
O?
TSONG YUNG NANAY NYA KASI E BODY LANGUAGE READER! AS IN HARD-CORE TALAGA!...
NAKUPOW!
LAHAT NG KILOS MO PAG-AARALAN.. ME' MGA DAHILANG MAKIKITA SA BAWAT GALAW MO 'YUN..
'YUN NA NGA, EH...
AAH! ME' NAISIP AKO. 'PAG ME' NAGAWA KA'T SUMAMA TINGIN SA'YO, GUMANITO KA LANG...
PRAY, PARE... PRAY! AT 'WAG KA NA GUMALAW...
ASTEEG!

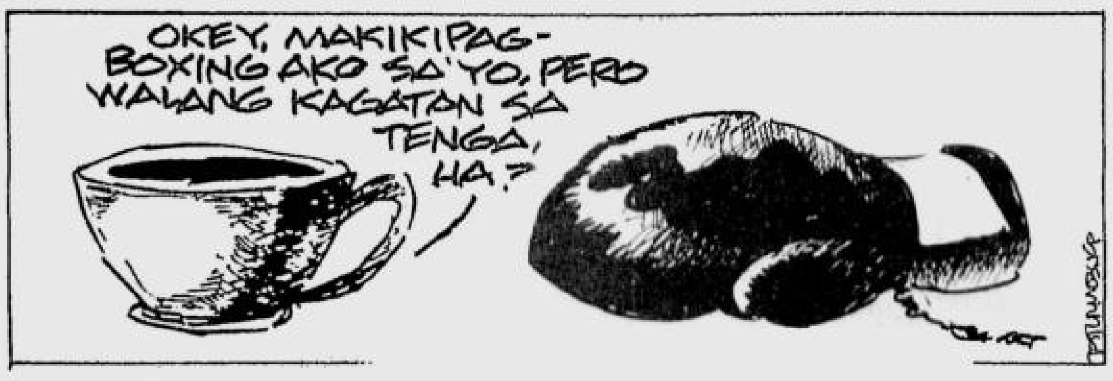
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, JUNE NA!! MALAPIT NA ANG PASKO!!
ANO KAYA ANG GINAGAWA NI SANTA CLAUS PAG HINDI PASKO?!
NAGBABALOT NG CHRISTMAS GIFTS!!
ARAYKOPO..! ANG SAKIT NA NG MGA KAMAY KO!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OKEY, MAKIKIPAG-BOXING AKO SA'YO, PERO WALANG KAGATAN SA TENGA, HA?

Writing and giving in to Dumaguete

From page G1

SUSAN Lara, Marjorie Evasco and Peter Mayshle give a reading of Tiempo's latest novel, "The Builder."

NVM Gonzalez's Romblon. But while each of these places is mythologized in one writer's dream of words, Dumaguete is borne on more than one pen, and has colonized more than one imagination.

Dumaguete is home to Edith Tiempo, and her late husband, "Doc" Edilberto K. Tiempo. Many of us call her "Mom," and every summer, the Philippine literary world knocks on Mom Edith's doors to take part in the oldest creative writing workshop in Asia.

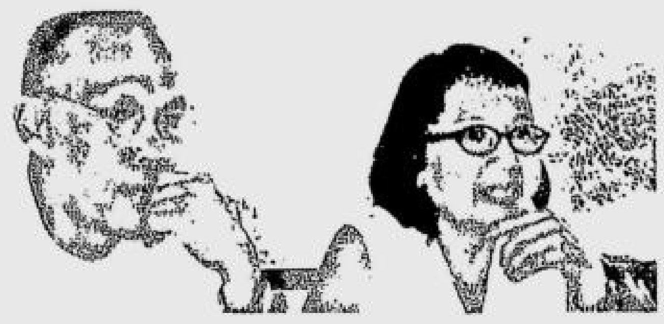
Immortalized

The quiet appeal of Dumaguete has made its way into the magic pages of books, journals and literary magazines, immortalized in countless stories, poems and essays. The authors we read have been through here, walked on these streets, and wrote sonnets to the sunrise off the boulevard.

In Yuson's "The Word on Paradise," Dumaguete becomes the metaphor for the writer's heart—beating across the sprawl of its 324 pages of literary gossip and literary illumination.

"In May," he writes in one essay, "at the height of summer, I come to Dumaguete for a week or so to renew fraternal ties... Poor Manileño never had a hometown. Until Dumaguete. I remember it as clearly as yesterday, that first ride on a slow-moving *tartanilla*, May of 1968. How I marveled at the manner of entry, at the fresh air of *provincia*, rustic indolence, aged acacias lining an avenue I instantly knew would lead to a long-imagined, long-elusive fountainhead... I would have friends here. I just knew it. We would share time and joy together here, until the place itself would turn into a memorious intimate. It has happened. Come to pass. And it's still, as they say, taking place. My Dumaguete friends and I continue to pass snatches of time together through decades of an evolving tapestry, absorbing layer upon fine layer of reminiscence. Those first three weeks in Dumaguete in the summer of 1968 had proven so thoroughly enjoyable that I swore to come back. *Na-dagit*. Hooked by her, the City of Gentle People."

There are other tales of writers in Dumaguete. Along old Don Alfonso XIII Street (now the oh-so-unpoetic Perdices Street), the late poet-for-the-people Emmanuel Lacaba had, wrote Krip, "swung a deal with a veteran whore who sold cigarettes at a corner...," rode with her on a "trike to the outskirts of town, and there, in her two-room wooden house, had spent the midnight hours romping on hard beds."



POETS Cesar Ruiz Aquino and Evasco

There is also the vision of the late Maningning Miclat emerging, Venus-like, from Apo Island waters; poet Ernesto Superal Yee pounding piano keys in a special concert at the Luce Auditorium dedicated to Mom Edith; poet Cirilo Bautista wading in a waterhole in Amlan; dramatist Ed Cabagnot giggling silly in the natural jacuzzi of Tejeros; fictionist Kerima Polotan drinking tea with Mom Edith at Amigo; poet Ricardo de Ungria picking *tambis*; poet Cesar Ruiz Aquino playing chess in the plaza; Rolando Tinio tearing a fellow's poem under an acacia tree in front of Larena Hall, dropping the pieces to the ground, saying the poem "deserved a proper burial"; poet and critic Ophelia Dimalanta taking in the sight of Lake Balinsasayao while listening to Beethoven... Memories reel off.

Not decadent Manila

"This place," Palanca Award-winning fictionist Timothy Montes writes in an essay for the 1988 Silliman Magazine, "a friend told me once, 'can make poets out of bums.' The poetry here, however, is the poetry of leaves. We are forever in the shadow of mild feelings, mild contemplation, mild laughter—never the wildness of city tenements and the seething rage of the sun... Every day has a dramatic atmosphere of sad farewells..."

And so it goes. Sometimes, in the middle of a slow Dumaguete day, while one sips iced tea in Scooby's or coffee in Café Memento and watches the world go by at Silliman Avenue, one wonders about the so-called "captivating romance" of this place appropriated and made curious lover by many writers. The city offers no quickening, no impulses, but pervading calm and the shiftless changes of days.

This is not sophisticated New York, or decadent Manila, or slumbering countryside as we find in Manuel Arguilla's literary landscape. "Nothing happens," Montes once wrote. "The [newspapers] can't find enough dogs bitten by men, everybody knows everybody, and one resorts to gossip in the face of the uneventfulness of leaves falling to the ground. Still, when one says goodbye, one never really leaves the place. The mild sadness grows within you, and when you ask yourself what makes you hang around this place transfixed in time, you realize the irony of leaves falling to the ground. I love [Dumaguete]; that's why I hate it. Like leaves falling to the ground, we are suspended in midair and never quite reach the ground until we learn to despise it."

How else does one describe the way pleasure penetrates the light schedule of three weeks? Mornings consist of workshopping two poems from 9:30, and afternoons one short story from 3 o'clock. There are too many southern temptations to while away the in-between hours.

There's the food and late-night beer or wine from such diverse hangouts as Chicco's and Le Chalet, Rosante, El Amigo, Manang Siony's, Chantilly, El Camino Blanco, Haya-hay and Lab-as, Bethel Guest House, Super Bake, Don Atilano, Kamalig, Jo's.

There are the leisurely traditions: Mickey Ybañez holding court in El Amigo; poetry reading at Catacombs Night in the bowels of the Silliman Church; and the semi-annual piano recital of poet Yee at the Luce Auditorium. This year saw the launching of Edith Tiempo's new novel "The Builder," a literature whodunit published by Anvil.

On weekends, there are the temptations of Siquijor's beaches, Apo's coral reefs and diving, and Casaroro's waterfall—and when whimsy wins, there's always the dolphin-watching excursion off Bais Bay, capped with a night under the stars at the Manjuyod Sandbars.

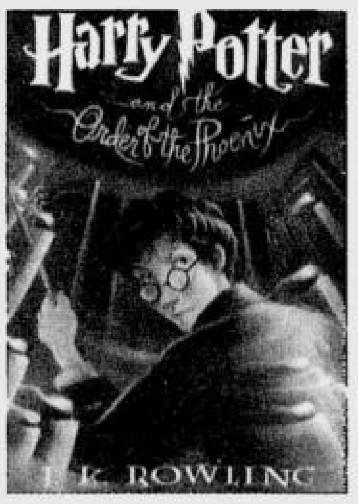
Three weeks too easily spent. Days pass too quickly when one is having fun.

But, of course, the meat is always the rumination on poetry and fiction. Days are sprinkled with spirited discussions of epiphanies, catharsis, metaphors, ironies, paradoxes, objective correlatives, poetic tension.

Sometimes a poem or story is praised, or buried under dismissive comments. Sometimes writing fellows mope, believing the world is cruel. But always, by the end of the day, there is that secret knowledge that you're having the time of your life.

Ishikawa probably said it best during one of the last nights in this year's workshop: "Dumaguete has its way of giving you what you ask of it." That is its magic.

'Harry Potter 5' out by June 21



"HARRY Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" will be out in PowerBooks Specialty Stores beginning June 21.

This is the fifth installment of the riveting series created by multi-awarded writer J.K. Rowling. The series follows the misadventures of the endearing Harry Potter and his friends Hermione and Ron.

The book will be sold in all PowerBooks branches at a cheaper price. A special token also awaits those who purchase the book on June 21.

Call 844-4455 or visit any of the PowerBooks branches on Arnaiz Avenue, Glorietta 3, SM Megamall and Alabang Town Center.

Bookstore activities

FOR JUNE, PowerBooks Specialty Store gives you Power Pick-a-Book. Get a chance to win books from Random House, office bags, T-shirts and many more.

Just buy any contemporary literature book, present your receipt at the customer service, and you have a chance to pick a prize from the box.

Other activities for the month:

On June 6 is the launching of the intriguing book "Unfaithful Wives," by Dr. Angela P. Sarile and Teresita Quirino, at 3 p.m., PowerBooks Megamall. This is the sequel to "Philandering Husbands."

For the lovers of poetry, the Powerpoets will have their Poetry Reading Session on "Regrets" on June 7, 6 p.m., at PowerBooks Arnaiz.

The Life Change Recovery Center conducts a seminar on family relationships on June 14, 6-9pm, at PowerBooks Arnaiz. Call 844-4455.

The Highest Vision Foundation hosts a discussion based on the best-selling book "Conversations with God," on June 18, 6 p.m., at PowerBooks Arnaiz.

The Life Change Recovery Center holds the "Worklife Balance Seminar" on June 21, 6 p.m., at PowerBooks Arnaiz.

On June 28, 4 p.m. at PowerBooks Arnaiz, De La Salle University Press will launch "Bullets & Roses: The Poetry of Amado V. Hernandez" by Cirilo F. Bautista; "Hagkus: Twentieth-century Writing" by Paz Verdades Santos; and "The Sky Over Dimas," winner of the Palanca Novel Award, by Vicente Gracia Grayon.

Back-to-school goodies

HALLMARK, Bic and Blopens offer a back-to-school promotion. Every P200 worth of single or accumulated purchase of these three brands entitles you to a free gift pack from Hallmark and Bic, plus a chance to join the Craftin' and Scrappin' Scrapbooking Contest.

Present your receipt to the Hallmark merchandiser at the National Book Store branch where the purchase was made, to redeem the gift pack and contest info sheet.

The contest has two categories: Category 1 is open to 20-year-olds and below; Category 2 is for 21-year-olds and above.

Entries must be 215.9 x 279.4 mm in size on a single sheet of paper, not an entire scrapbook. Winning entries will be chosen based on creativity, originality, color scheme and overall impact.

To complete the triple treat, winners of each category will bring home a Hallmark-Bic-Blopens gift pack worth over P1,000 and a P3,000 worth of National Book Store gift checks.

Submit scrapbook entries with the info sheet to the Customer Service or Hallmark Merchandiser of any NBS Metro Manila branch, or to Craftin' and Scrappin', c/o Filstar Distributors Corp., 2/F Reliance Center Bldg., 99 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Ugong, Pasig City.

Mailed entries should be received not later than June 26, but entries submitted personally at NBS will be accepted until June 30.

Pen gets Platinum SuperBrand, moves to Hall of Fame

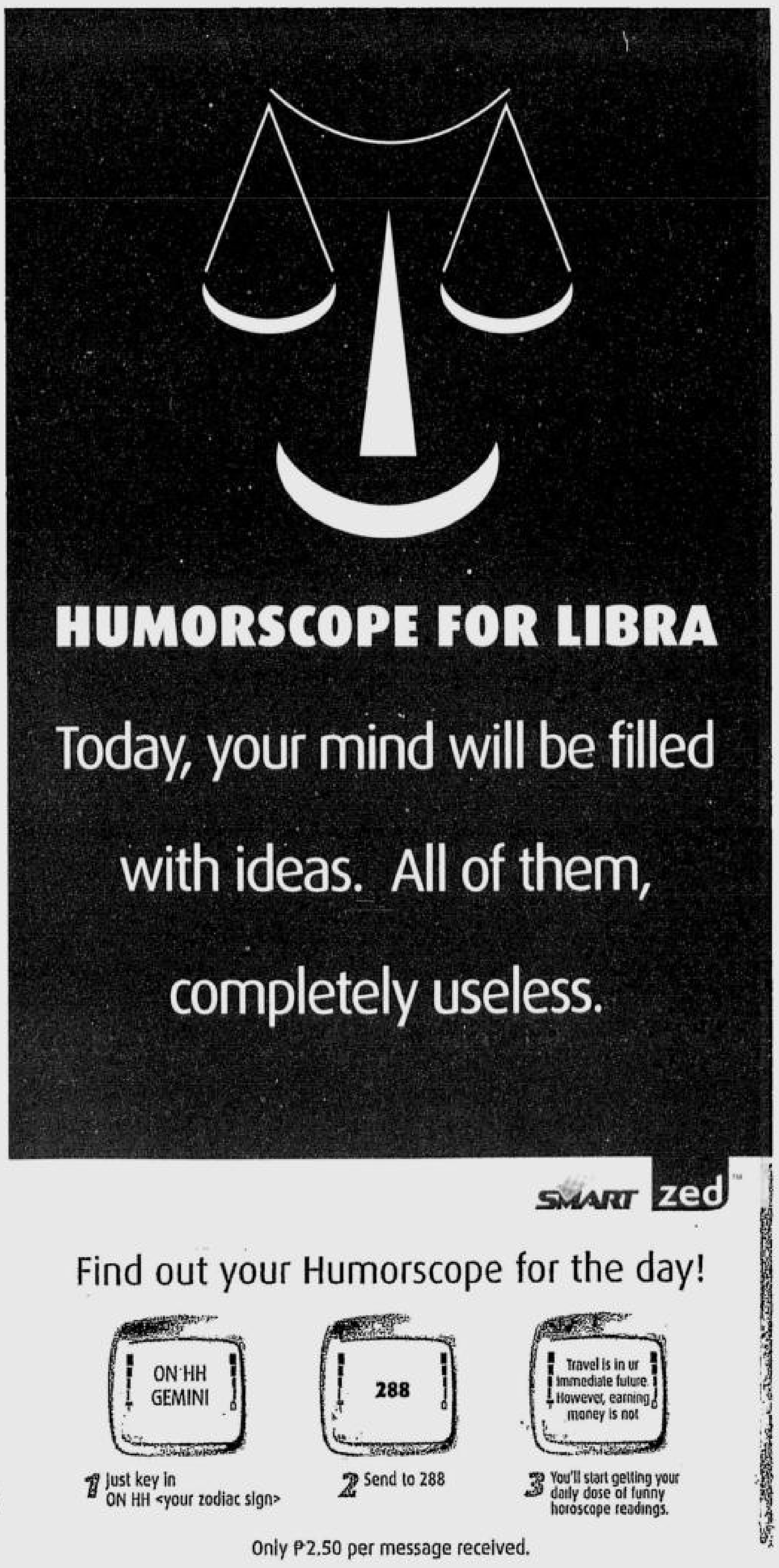
PARKER was awarded the Platinum SuperBrand in the Pen category in Asia and the Philippines in the recent Reader's Digest Asia SuperBrand Survey.

The SuperBrand Award is annually given by Reader's Digest Asia, one of the region's best-selling magazines. Recipients are chosen through surveys in six Asian markets—Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong and Taiwan—of what consumers want and which brands they think stand out from the rest.

Parker Pen was picked as the writing instrument most preferred by consumers.

The pen won the SuperBrand gold award in 2001. More initiatives for better brand-building and efforts to maintain market leadership earned it the Platinum award.

Parker has also now been elevated to the SuperBrand Hall of Fame in the Pen category in the Philippines and Asia as a whole.



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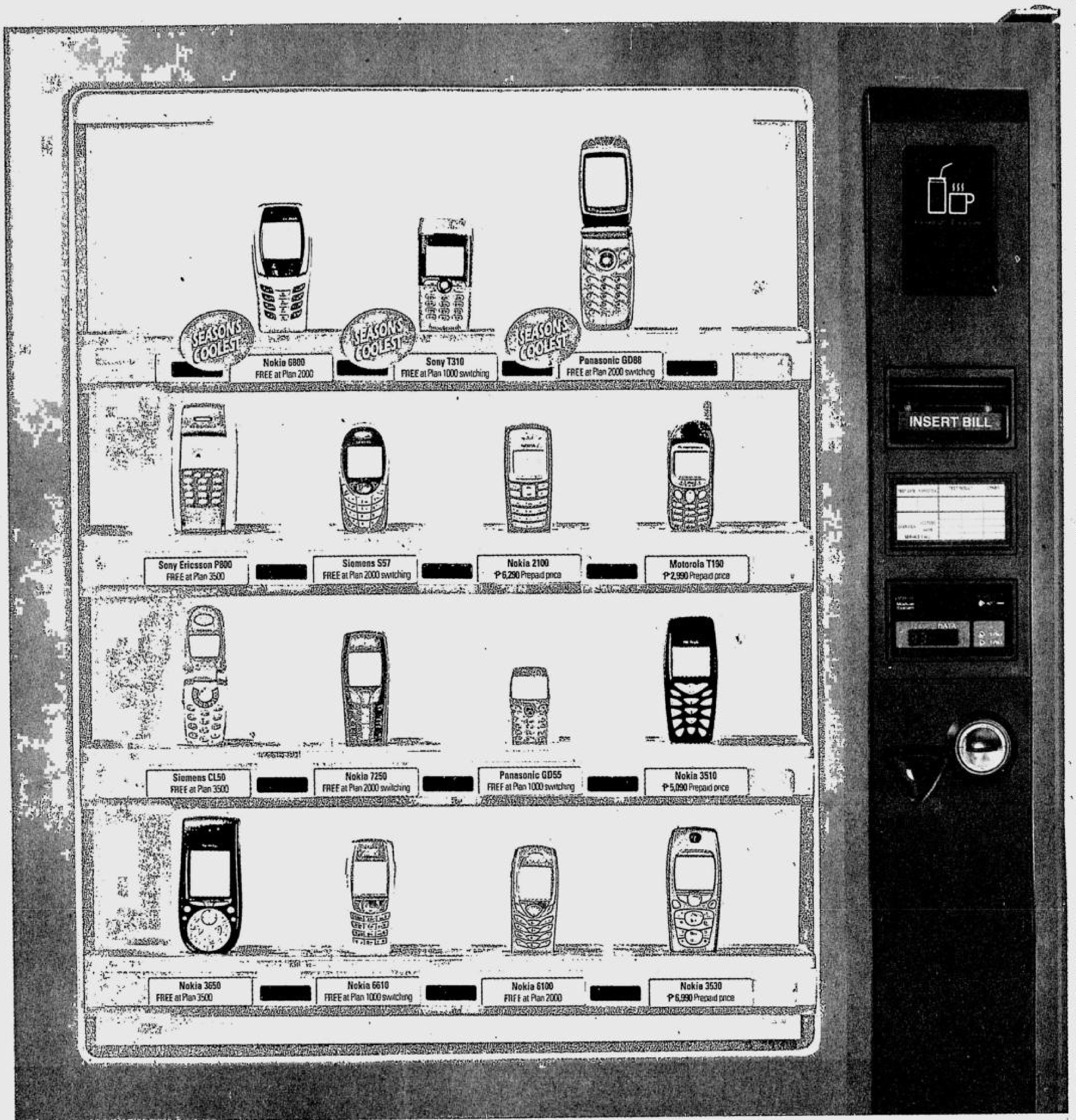
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SEASONS COOLEST
Sony T310
FREE at Plan 1000 switching
SEASONS COOLEST
Panasonic GD88
FREE at Plan 2000 switching
Sony Ericsson P800
FREE at Plan 3500
Siemens S57
FREE at Plan 2000 switching
Nokia 2100
₱6,290 Prepaid price
Motorola T190
₱2,990 Prepaid price
Siemens CL50
FREE at Plan 3500
Nokia 7250
FREE at Plan 2000 switching
Panasonic GD55
FREE at Plan 1000 switching
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Nokia 8910i	34,990	31,500	22,000	15,000	FREE	29,000	18,000	9,000	FREE
Nokia 3530	6,990	3,500	FREE	FREE	FREE	3,500	FREE	FREE	FREE
Panasonic GD55	7,290	4,500	2,250	FREE	FREE	2,750	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3650	25,490	18,850	9,500	4,000	FREE	17,500	8,000	2,000	FREE
Siemens S57	18,790	17,250	14,500	7,500	FREE	14,500	11,000	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6610	20,790	16,000	3,000	FREE	FREE	15,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 2100	6,290	1,750	FREE	FREE	FREE	500	FREE	FREE	FREE
Motorola T190	2,990	1,250	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson T100	5,690	2,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson T200	7,290	5,000	2,750	750	FREE	2,750	1,750	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3510	5,090	2,750	FREE	FREE	FREE	2,750	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6100	22,990	19,000	14,500	FREE	FREE	18,000	6,500	FREE	FREE
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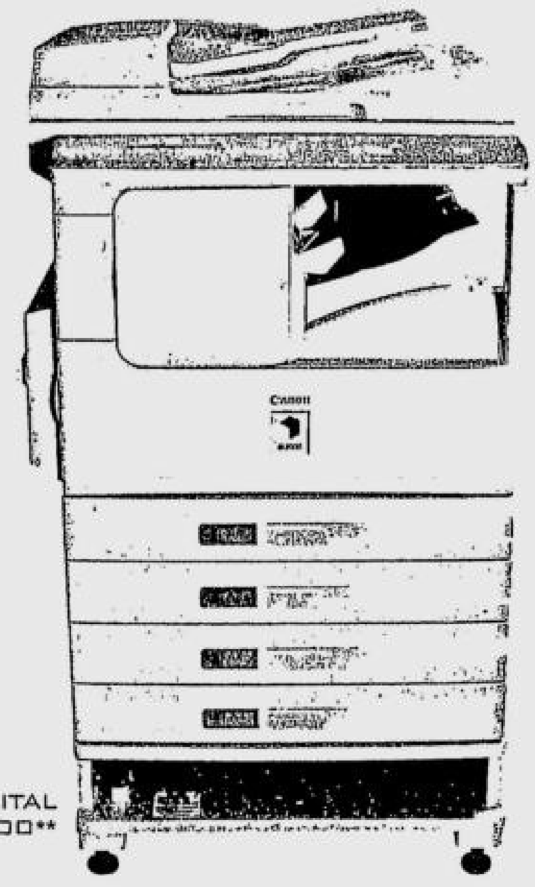

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Promo Period: March 21 - June 21, 2003

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0617 Series of 2003

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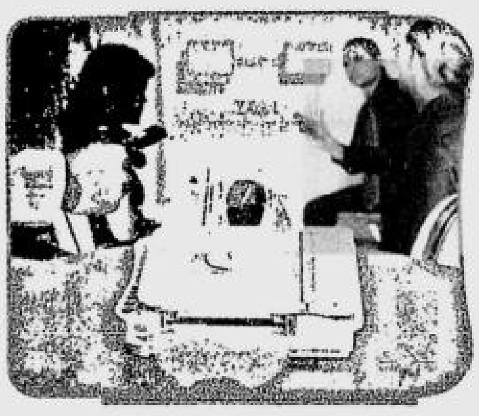
Technology that makes you smile.



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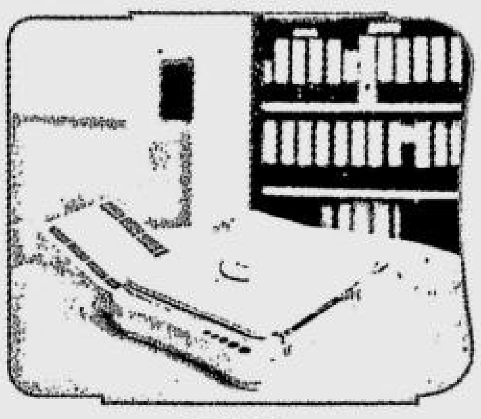

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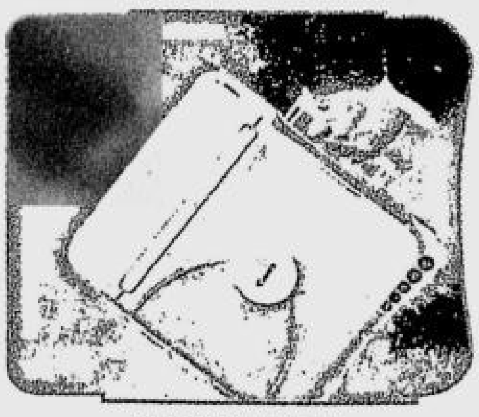

ANYWHERE.

The new Canon FC 290 Portable Copier. Quality and reliability in one convenient package.

Now you needn't head for that far-off copy shop for your urgent copies. Or wait another day to make them at the office. The new Canon FC 290 lets you copy almost anywhere. Its discreet slide-up handle, practical controls and zero warm-up make copying so manageable. What's more, it works with various media - making up to 50 copies continuously.

Add to this a virtually maintenance-free all-in-one cartridge and you'll agree that when it comes to convenience, the Canon FC 290 copier is the solution to run with.

FREE with the FC 290!

- Canon Prima BF-800 Camera
- Canon T-Shirt
- Canon Cap

Promo runs June 1 to July 31, 2003.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2250 Series of 2002

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Canon

IMAGERUNNER C3200

The power to do tasks seamlessly and efficiently

Copy, print, scan and email— the imageRUNNER C3200 is a complete end-to-end platform with built-in network connectivity and may be the only multifunction device your workgroup will ever need

NEED a do-it-all system in your office that will put your company ahead of the competition?

Introducing a new generation of color, multifunction imaging system, equipped with impressive new technology to achieve optimum speed for handling multiple tasks and unparalleled color image quality.

The Canon imageRUNNER c3200 has the power to handle copy, print, scan and email efficiently in both black and white, and color with no compromise in speed! Offering the full capabilities of Canon's imagePlatform architecture, the imageRUNNER C3200 will revolutionize the way individuals manage and communicate information, ideas and knowledge—regardless of the form, content or the location from which it originates.

Leveraging on the vast power of corporate networks and the Internet, the Canon imageRUNNER C3200 makes seamless workgroup collaboration a reality by allowing workgroup users to deploy all forms of information with unprecedented speed and unparalleled convenience.

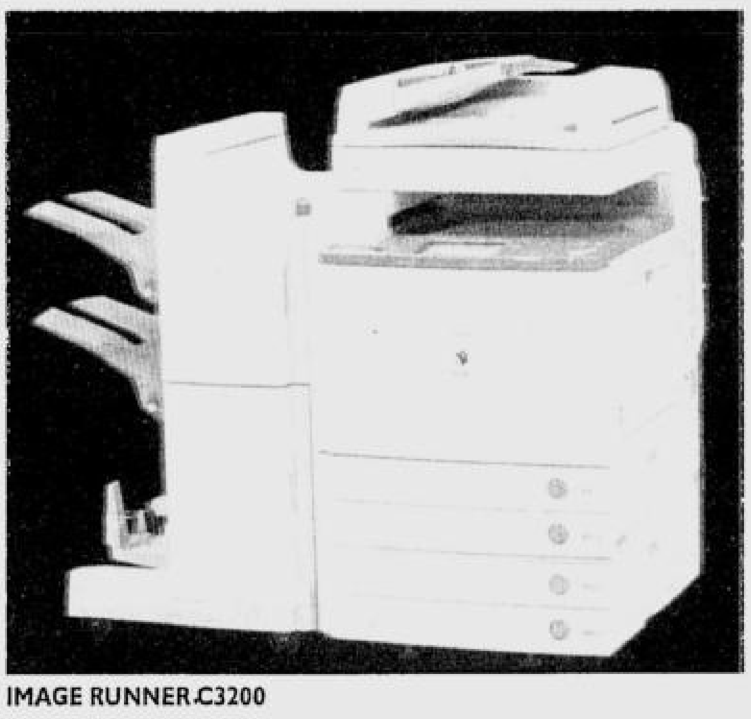


IMAGE RUNNER C3200

Multifunction productivity

The only thing more impressive than the technology that Canon puts into the imageRUNNER C3200 is the productivity you get out of it. Never asking you to sacrifice ease for high performance, the imageRUNNER C3200 delivers features that far exceed capabilities of most standalone devices on the market today.

Best of all, users and administrators are provided with all the necessary tools for quick and intuitive operation of all device functions—whether at the device, through a large, full color, touch screen user-interface panel, or at your desktop, through Canon-supplied device drivers and utilities.

A central communications hub

With a 40GB Hard Disk Drive and a 768MB of RAM, the imageRUNNER C3200 offers a 32-pages-per minute speed for both black and white, and color to meet the needs of busy corporate workgroups and departments.

In one fully integrated device you get advanced digital copying and mail box capabilities, exceptional network printing and scanning, powerful Fax capabilities (optional), and one of the latest breakthroughs in Canon's long history of digital innovation—Universal Send technology.

Superior image quality

Canon's world-class leadership in image quality-capturing the highest levels of detail in every document—is standard on every imageRUNNER C3200. Capturing images at true 600 x 600 dpi resolution, the device delivers superior output quality at 600 x 600 dpi interpolated resolution for copy and an outstanding 2,400 x 600 dpi in print mode, offering the most faithful reproduction of documents on the market today.

Advanced technology

The imageRUNNER C3200 has the technology to stand tall! Standard-equipped with a 40 GB large-capacity hard disk, this new model can manage multiple functions more efficiently than most equivalent machines in the market. In addition, you can use this product as a server for temporarily storing, editing and managing large-capacity color image data on a network.

Flat 4 Laser Engine

The newly designed "Flat 4 Laser Engine" with four twin beam laser units and rum units for individual colors are horizontally configured. It combines a wide variety of Canon photo technology to deliver high-speed output of 32-pages-per-minute (A4 landscape) in both color and monochrome and also 2400 dpi x 600 dpi high resolution.

Intermediate transfer belt

The intermediate transfers belt transfers images generated by the photosensitive drum to paper with high transfer efficiency. Designed to stabilize image transfer, the direct transfer system supports thick stock paper of up to 253 gsm.

POWER/ H2

Canon

THE CLC 1100

Improving on perfection

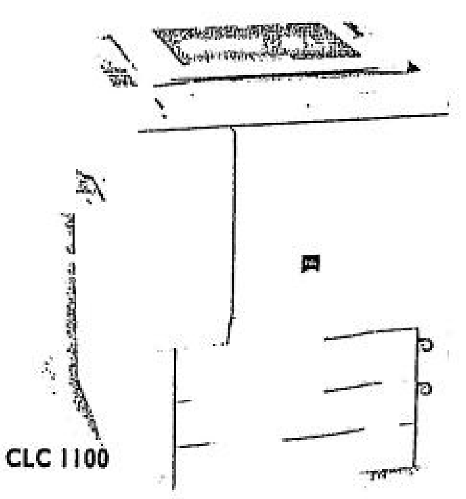
Canon's color laser copiers are known as feature-driven copiers with unrivalled color accuracy and unsurpassed reliability. The new CLC 1100 offers mid-volume production departments a list of user-friendly features

NOW designers, publishers, marketers, even Print-for-Pay shops can enjoy superior image quality, increased paper capacity, and boosted productivity. The CLC 1100 outputs 8.5 color copies per minute—in a resolution that is the visual equivalent of 800 x 400 dpi. It accommodates a wide range of paper stock, including oversize A3 sheets (for full bleed A3 images).

And it reproduces colors brilliantly. The CLC 1100 uses Canon's exclusive Finer, Brighter Toner for richer, more vibrant colors, and is designed with Canon's Advanced Mapping Technology for accurate RGB to CMYK conversions.

Moreover, the CLC 1100 is as beneficial to the production manager as it is to the artist. It's fast, it's reliable, and it connects easily to a Canon ColorPASS color server for access to extensive document and color-management functions.

With the CLC 1100, it's easy to manipulate color, text, and graphics, either through the optional Editor when copying, or through ColorWise Pro Tools when printing (via your desktop or remote location)!



CLC 1100

The CLC 1100 is ideal for mid-volume situations. It can handle all mid-volume copy and print jobs quickly and reliably. Through a combination of faster image processing and fusing technologies, the CLC 1100 deliver more than eight color copies per minute (and 42 black-and-white copies per minute). Canon's Accelerated Paper Feeding Method has reduced the first-copy-out time to 21 seconds and 9.6 seconds for black-and-white copies.

Brighter colors

The CLC 1100 offers the widest range of color with the most accurate reproduction of colors and hues.

Consider Canon's use of FB-Toner. Designed specifically for the CLC 1100 Series, FB-Toner is comprised of particles much smaller than those commonly used. As a result, the CLC 1100 offers a more precise placement toner—and a broader palette of colors—than conventional machines. And your RGB to CMYK conversions will also be accurate because Canon has armed the CLC 1100 with its Advanced Mapping Technology. So you'll see all the details and colors found in your original art—on each and every copy.

Sharper Curves

The CLC 1100 also boasts sharper text, smoother curves, and unrivalled color output because Canon has designed the machine with its exclusive Color Automatic Image Refinement technology. This advanced algorithm enhances 400 x 400 dpi dramatically and delivers the visual equivalent of 800 x 400 dpi output.

Improved Accuracy

The CLC 1100 employs a direct injection Transfer System, so each toner color is transferred to the paper in one single step. As a result, the CLC 1100 offers improved color accuracy, maintaining the highest image quality regardless of environmental conditions.

Increased flexibility

The CLC 1100 supports papers of various weights, sizes, and grades.

The CLC 1100 includes Canon's new Transfer Drum Attraction System, which lets you work with paper stock up to 110 lb. Index. And it has an expanded output capability—the CLC 1100 lets you work with paper up to oversize A3—or full bleed. You can even choose to increase productivity further: just add the optional 2,500-sheet Paper Deck, and you'll have a paper capacity of 3,850 sheets.

The power to do . . .

From page H1

Durability

Using electro-static charging, the residual toner on the surface of the photosensitive drum is recovered without the use of a cleaner plate. The absence of the plate eliminates damage to the drum and is designed to provide a longer operating lifespan.

New S Toner

Canon's original technology and know-how enabled the design of the polymerized S toner, which is different from original chemical toner. Enhanced technology is used for the production of S toner, which is a 6.5 micron core-shell-structure particle, containing wax, coloring and other ingredients. This produces beautiful color output where pen and pencil can be used over the oil-less images.

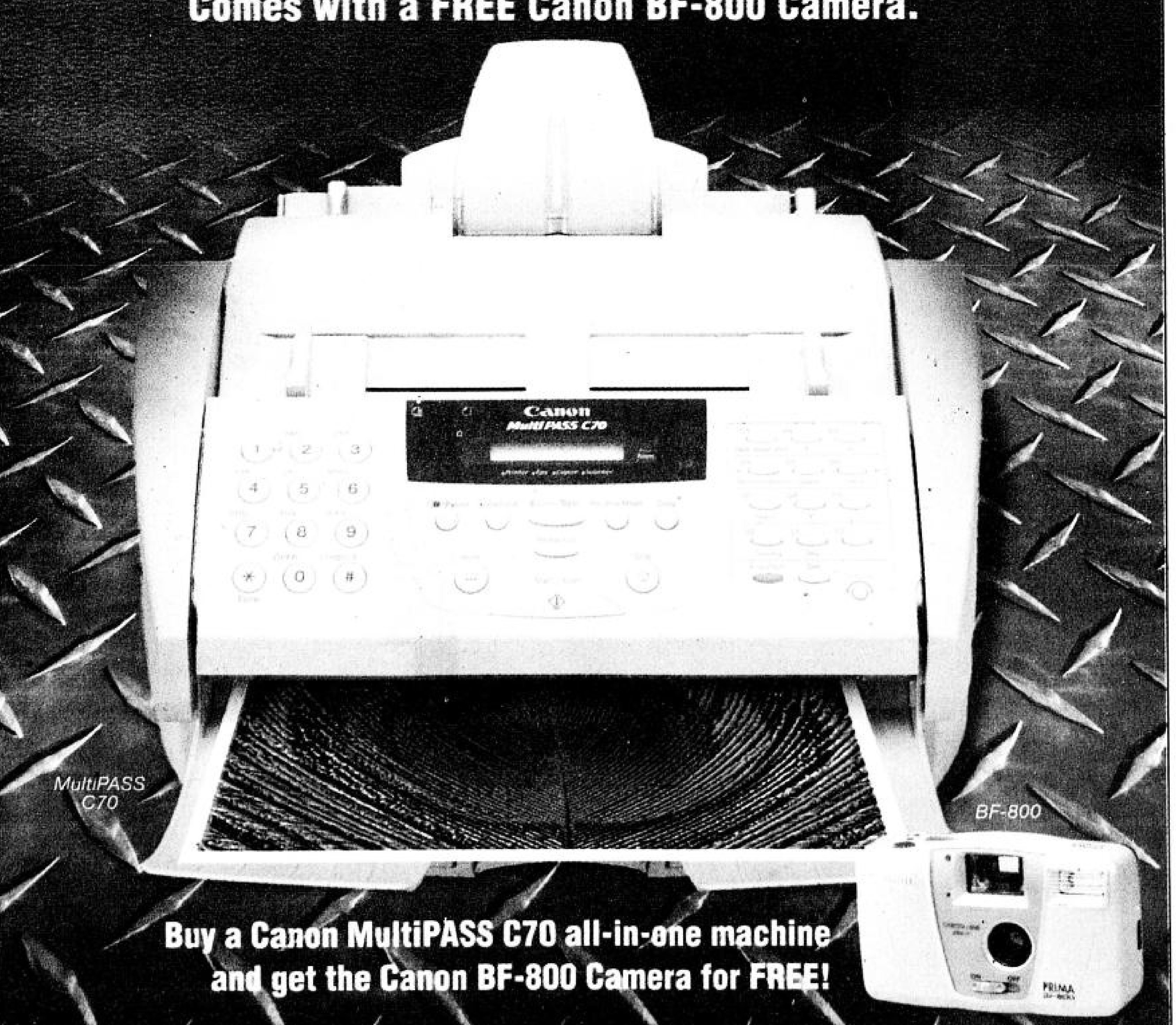
ImageRUNNER C3200 comes with the 3rd generation S toner that supports the high performance of digital color machine. The new S toner makes it color reproducibility richer. The color area volume is expanded by about 30 percent more than the former S toner.

In-built Cost Accounting

With the emerging "network office" environment, the accounting of copy and print jobs from different users in the office has become an immediate concern for the organization. By allocating user passwords, the administrator can monitor usage by department and users for black and white, and color copying, printing and scanning. In addition, the administrator can set page limits and bar access for some users. With this feature, it eases the job of the administrator with cost accounting and management of the machine.

IT'S A LEAN, MEAN ALL-IN-ONE MACHINE!

Even the toughest job is no match for the Canon MultiPASS C70.
Comes with a FREE Canon BF-800 Camera.



Buy a Canon MultiPASS C70 all-in-one machine and get the Canon BF-800 Camera for FREE!

There's nothing that this multipurpose machine can't do for you. You can fax, print, scan and copy documents with this all-in-one wonder in full color. With a touch of a button, you can get the job done in minutes without switching from one gadget to another. Compact and handy, it also helps you save a lot of space at home or in the office.

Plus, when you buy a Canon MultiPASS C70, you get an automatic Canon BF-800 Camera.
So hurry! Visit your nearest dealer and avail of this fantastic deal now!

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Technology that makes you smile

Canon

Canon's large format printers come with a tradition of quality

Canon, a pioneer in color inkjet technology, has produced inkjet products since the late 1980s. Its large-format inkjet printers follow through with a tradition of quality and come with a lower price tag

W7250 Graphic Arts Printer

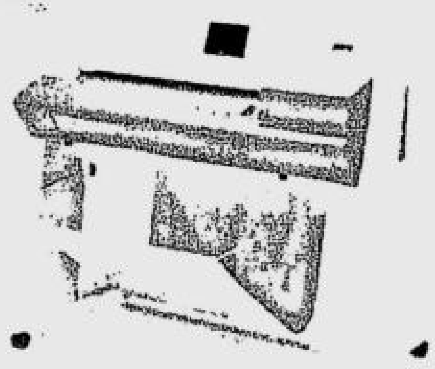
THE CANON-W7250 Graphic Arts Printer comes with a corresponding smaller price tag. If the quality of the W7250 is an indication, however, those in the market for a 36" printer should look at the Canon-W7200. Canon also carries a 42" printer-the BJ-W9000.

The W7250 handles 240 roll media and sheet stock. It uses a six-ink system that extends CMYK with photo cyan and photo magenta inks. Capable of 1200 dpi resolution in standard mode, the Canon-W7250 produces excellent color images out of the box.

In both the line drawing test and photographic image test, the Canon-W7250 performs admirably, printing the D-size line drawing at high quality in 2 minutes, 29 seconds and the photographic image in just over 3 minutes. The line drawing is sharp and crisp. The color quality of the photographic image is excellent. Although it's not required to produce quality prints, Canon recommends the addition of a RIP for professional applications.

The Canon-W7250 ships standard with a USB 1.1 interface and a 10BaseT/100 Base TX Ethernet interface for easy network connection. An IEEE 1394 FireWire connection is also available as an option for the W7250 (standard on the W7200). You can configure the networked printer through a Web browser. Canon provides

FORMAT/H4



W7250 Graphic Arts printer

Focus on ImageRUNNER C3200 features

As a digital copier...

THE IMAGE RUNNER C3200 provides considerable flexibility from simple convenience copying to advanced in-house, production-level copying and finishing capabilities.

- It allows users to get the exact image they need. You can view the image from the control panel in color and using an edit pen, you can mark off portions of the original to be excluded from copies, or just select the part of the document that you wish to reproduce.
- It makes copies from images stored in memory, resulting in reduced scanner wear and tear.
- Synchronizes the functions of scanner, image processor, and engine operation. For example, a user can store up to five copy jobs in memory and perform send operations while other copy or print jobs are being processed.
- Notifies if a job is done. No need to wait at the copier. When a reserved copy job is complete, users can be notified via E-mail.

Network connectivity and E-mail capabilities...

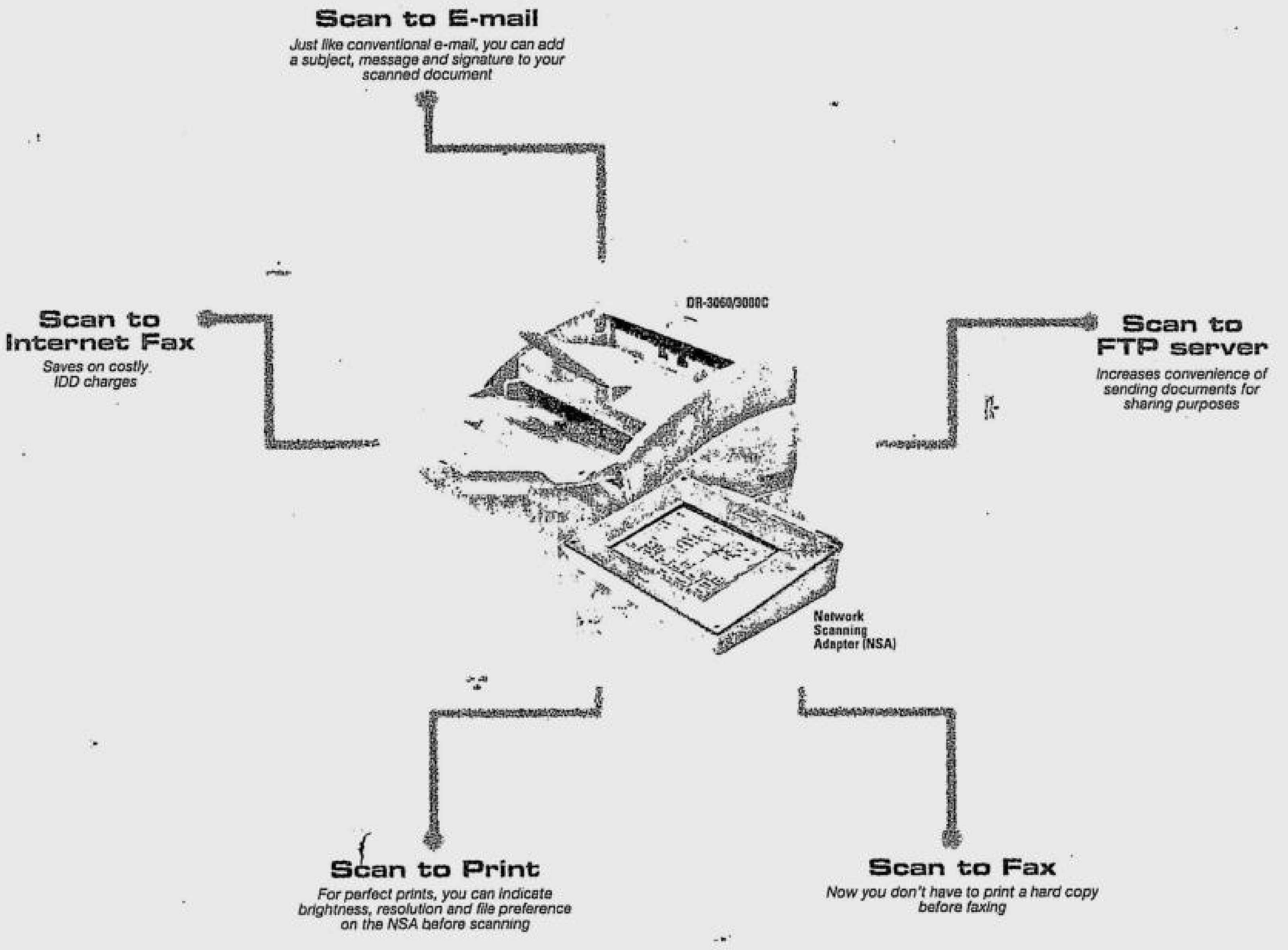
- ImageRUNNER C3200 is a fully network-connected model, providing uses with the ability to leverage full system capabilities, such as network printing, scanning and PC faxing (optional) right from the desktops.
- It features Canon's new printing algorithm "UFR" (ultra fast rendering) as a standard feature, achieving maximum performance in Windows environment.
- The print-driver software is designed with an easy-to-use user-interface that friendly for the novice, yet capable to handle the demands of power users.
- Users can send print jobs to personal image server Mail Boxes for integration with other print or scanned data.
- Permits entry of a confidential PIN from within the print driver.
- Users can combine and print documents that were created in different application as a single document and they can also preview and manipulate the merged file,

Sharing capabilities...

Universal Send—an all-terrain vehicle for the new information superhighway. A standard feature of the imageRUNNER C3200, the universal send technology empowers the workgroup in a whole new way, with the unique ability to deploy all forms of information, without restriction, to multiple destinations across a diverse and ever-changing digital landscape.

Now network users have the ability to send any kind of document, whether it resides on paper or in electronic form, via a LAN, the Internet, or a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to multiple destinations, all in one simple, time saving operation.

An Amazing Network Solution for Greater Business Efficiency



Scan to E-mail
Just like conventional e-mail, you can add a subject, message and signature to your scanned document

Scan to Internet Fax
Saves on costly IDD charges

Scan to FTP server
Increases convenience of sending documents for sharing purposes

Scan to Print
For perfect prints, you can indicate brightness, resolution and file preference on the NSA before scanning

Scan to Fax
Now you don't have to print a hard copy before faxing

In paper-intensive industries, such as logistics, banking & finance, insurance, manufacturing, education and government bodies, Canon offers its range of high-speed **Document Reader (DR)** scanners to complement the heavy load of documentation. Powerful and speedy, your business is assured of high quality scans and perfect output at the shortest time possible.

And now when you connect the **Network Scanning Adapter (NSA)** to our DR scanner*, you can also send your scanned copies to multiple destinations just by keying in your command on the NSA's LCD touch panel! It is Easy, Reliable & most of all, Fast!

** Only compatible with DR-2080C, DR-3060, DR-3080C*

DR-3060/3080C

- Scans up to 40 pages a minute
- Precision paper feeding and output
- Creates pdf plus other image processing features bundled
- Available in colour and/or monochrome

Network Scanning Adapter

- Lightweight touch screen LCD panel
- Simple user interface
- Scans into bmp, jpeg, tiff, mtiff and pdf
- Information sent can be saved in the log

Other production scanner models:

DR-2080C
20ppm, Duplex,
A4, Colour

DR-4580U
58ppm, Duplex,
A3, Monochrome

DR-5020/5080C
84ppm, Duplex,
A3, Colour / Monochrome

CD-4050/4050N
37ppm, Duplex,
A4, Monochrome,
All-in-one
Scans & Writes into CDs

(Based on certain scanning conditions and PC environment)

See us at the GRAPHIC Expo!

June 4-7, 2003, Philippine Trade and Training Center, Roxas Blvd., Manila

Technology that makes you smile

YES! I want to know more about Canon's total imaging solutions featured here.

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Canon
Image Management Solutions

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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CANON'S PR-210X

For any presentation, use this great assistant

CANON's PR-210X tool gives the user more resources to work with, from paper documents to photos and more. And it lets you get more out of your projector, without using a PC. Scanning is quick, and color quality is impressive. What's more, there's a full set of practical features packed inside.

Excellent image quality

The PR-210X automatically adjusts itself to the projector's level of resolution, either XGA or SVGA. It delivers high-quality color images that are clear from edge to edge, and provides three scan settings so that you can vary the amount of detail in the projected image. Super Fine Mode, for example, is useful for scanning documents with fine print or other small details.

Extremely practical

Feeding of documents starts with the press of a button and continues quickly until the buffer memory is full. The feed tray holds up to 30 A4/LTR-size sheets, has an adjustable paper guide and can fit legal size papers. Smaller items, such as photographs, can be fed using the Carrier Sheet.

The PR-210X has a large buffer memory that lets you scan ahead up to 20 pages in normal mode. This helps your presentation move along smoothly because the following sheets are always ready to be projected at a moment's notice. Just select the next image, and it will be shown right away.

It also has a thumbnail display that allows for the showing of all the pages that are currently in the buffer memory.

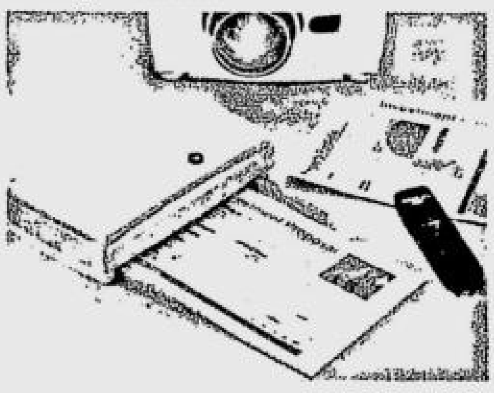
Easy to operate

The PR-210X comes equipped with a wide range of user-friendly functions, which can be accessed through a remote control or the Menu Bar. The remote control includes keys for several major functions: changing the projected image, zooming in and out, rotating the image, switching input sources, and adjusting brightness.

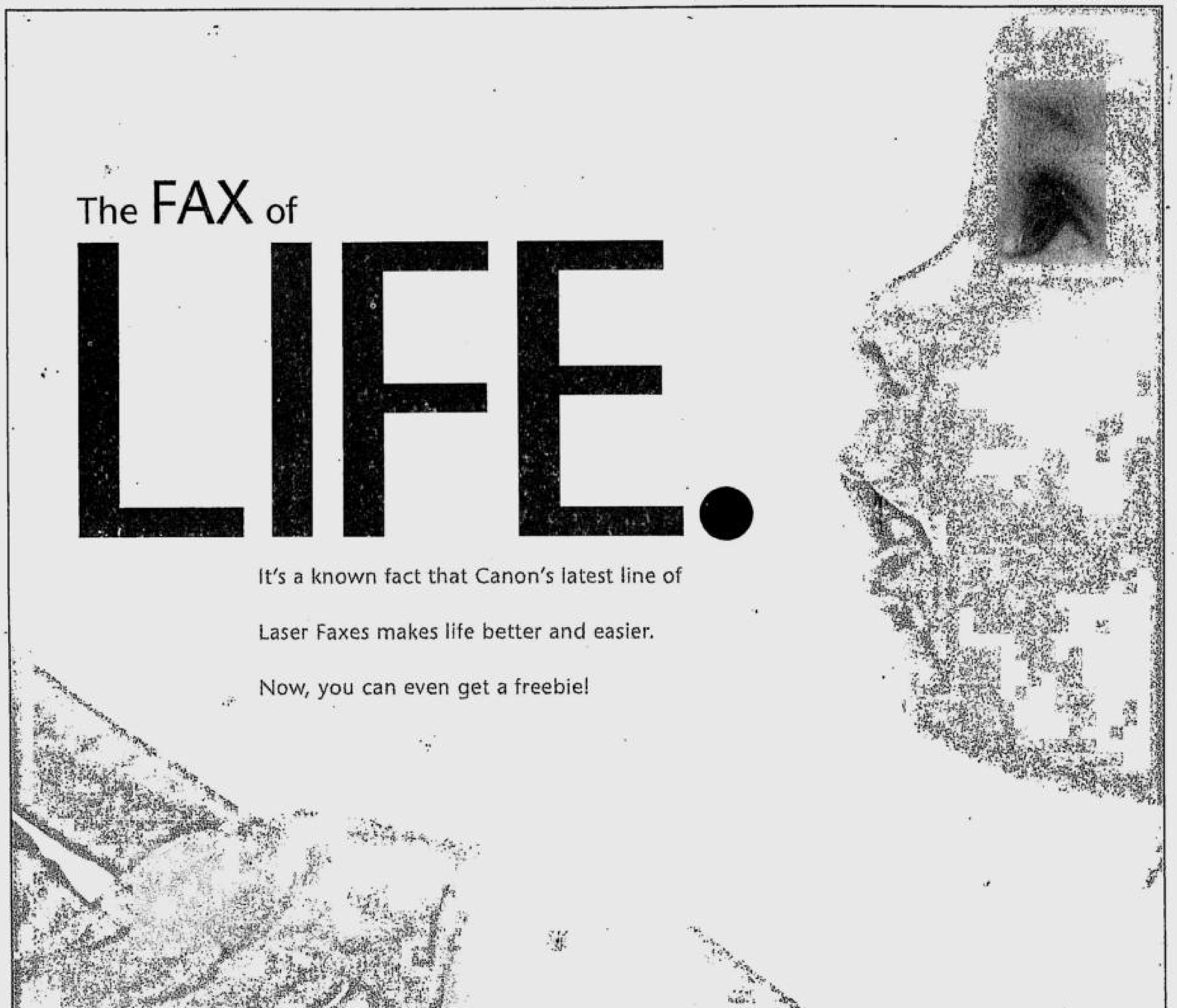
The Menu Bar has extra functions such as a Mirror Image function for handling upside down transparency sheets, and a number of pull-down menus for changing scanner settings as desired. The Menu Bar can also be controlled with the projector's remote control.

The PR-210X has zoom feature for enlarging a part of the image for a better view. A high performance graphic controller ensures both scrolling from one part of the image to another.

Thanks to a built-in switch, you can also change your input source from the PR-210X to a connected PC at any time—a useful feature if the projector has only one RGB input terminal. Simply press the remote control's Source button, and the PC's display image gets projected instead.



The presentation assistant PR-210X lets you scan diverse materials for immediate display—documents, photos, transparencies, memos, and more. It offers high image quality and is remarkably easy to operate

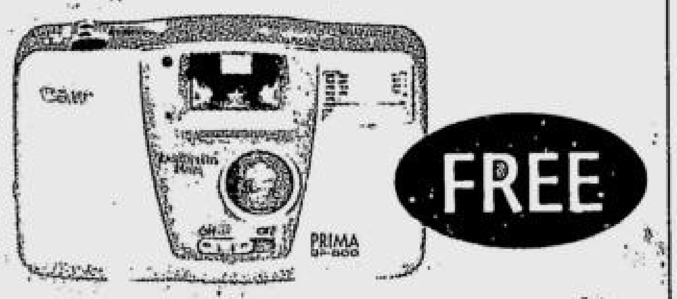


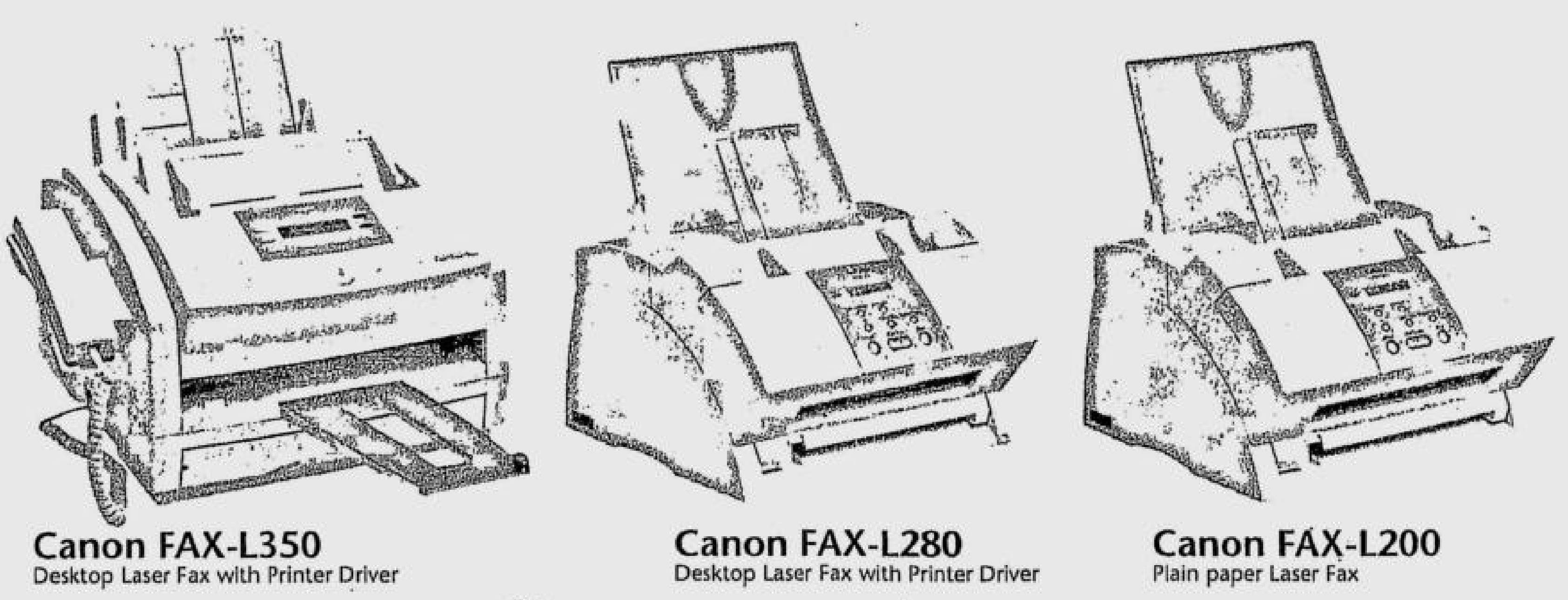
The FAX of LIFE.

It's a known fact that Canon's latest line of Laser Faxes makes life better and easier.

Now, you can even get a freebie!

Now, owning the Canon L200, L280, and L350 Laser Fax machines has never been better. You not only get to enjoy the best in laser fax technology available today with ultra high quality images, you also get to own a cool, ready-to-shoot Canon BF-800 camera. Visit your nearest Canon dealer today!





Canon FAX-L350
Desktop Laser Fax with Printer Driver

- Super G3 modem - 33.3 Kbps, 3 seconds per page
- 3-in-1 copy, fax and printing capabilities
- High Memory, large paper handling capacity

Canon FAX-L280
Desktop Laser Fax with Printer Driver

- Super G3 modem - 33.3 Kbps, 3 seconds per page
- Back up PC-Printer

Canon FAX-L200
Plain paper Laser Fax

- 14.4 Kbps, 6 seconds per page
- Easy-to-remove FX3 toner cartridge, virtually maintenance free

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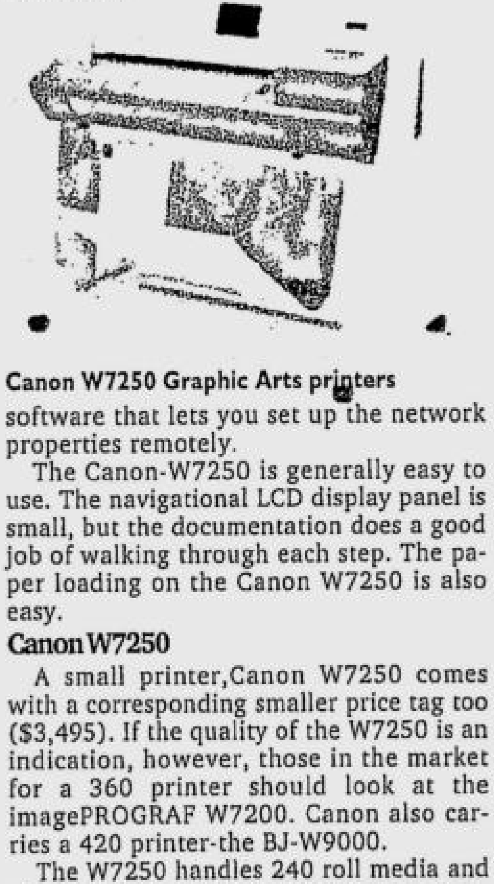
Canon
Technology that makes you smile

Format printers ...

From page H3



Canon W7250 Graphic Arts printers

software that lets you set up the network properties remotely.

The Canon-W7250 is generally easy to use. The navigational LCD display panel is small, but the documentation does a good job of walking through each step. The paper loading on the Canon W7250 is also easy.

Canon W7250

A small printer,Canon W7250 comes with a corresponding smaller price tag too ($3,495). If the quality of the W7250 is an indication, however, those in the market for a 360 printer should look at the imagePROGRAF W7200. Canon also carries a 420 printer-the BJ-W9000.

The W7250 handles 240 roll media and sheet stock. It uses a six-ink system that extends CMYK with photo cyan and photo magenta inks. Capable of 1200 dpi resolution in standard mode, the imagePROGRAF W7250 produces excellent color images out of the box.

In both the line drawing test and photographic image test, the imagePROGRAF W7250 performs admirably, printing the D-size line drawing at high quality in 2 minutes, 29 seconds and the photographic image in just over 3 minutes. Th eline drawing is sharp and crisp. The color quality of the photographic image is excellent. Although it's not required to produce quality prints, Canon recommends the addition of a RIP for professional applications.

The imagePROGRAF W7250 ships standard with USB 1.1 interface and a 10BaseT/100 Base TX Ethernet interface for easy network connection. An IEEE 1394 FireWire connection is also available as an option for the W7250 (standard on W700). You can configure the networked printer through a Web browser. Canon provides software that lets you set up the network properties remotely.

The imagePROGRAF W7250 is generally easy to use. The navigational LCD display panel is small, but the documentation does a good job of walking through each step. The paper loading on the imagePROGRAF W7250 is the easiest of the printers reviewed.

If you're looking for both speed and printing quality in a 240 inkjet printer, make sure the imagePROGRAF W7250 is on your list.